No. 20

to the close of 1846

Mrs Willards from 11th October to 25
November –

Began to board with Mr Wells
November 25, 1823 –

1823

Elijah Williams

May 17, 1823

Course

History &c—

Blackstones Commentaries

Sullivan's Lectures

Woodesons Lectures

1. vol. Coke upon Littleton

Jones on Bailments—

Chitty on Bills—

Selwyn's Nisi Prius

Law Maxims –
with an
Account
of
Several ancient Statutes –

Statutes -

De Donis

The will of the donor shall be observed and lands shall at all events descend to the heir or revert to the donor. Ed. 1. Chap 13. - 1 or Westminster 2.

Quia Emptores.

Upon all sales or feoffments of land the feoffee shall hold the same not of his immediate feoffor but of his chief lord in fee of whom his feoffor held it. Edw. 1. Chap. 1 or West. 3-

Merton

Made to regulate the power of Guardian in Chivalry in regard to marriage.

Marlebridge.

Gives the action of replevin, by enabling the Sheriff to retake goods &c which have been distrained.

Gloucester

Made to prevent warranties from binding the issue, where the warrantor had no right to convey, or where the heir had no assets.

Deeds.

- Verba intentioni, non e contra debent inservire C. L. Sec 411
- Carta non est nisi vestimentum donationis. C. L. sec 411.

— Benignæ sunt faciendæ interpretationes cartarum propter simplicitatem laicorum, ut res magis valeat quam pereat C. Litt sec. 40—

— Nihil tam conveniens est naturali æquitati quam voluntatem domini volentis rem suam in alium transferre ratam habere C. L. sec 40—

— Verba cartarum fortius accipiuntur contra proferentem. C. L. Id.

— Generale dictum generaliter est intelligendum. Id

— Verba debent intelligi secundum subjectam materiam

— Carta de non ente non valet Id.

— Non quod dictum est, sed quod factum est inspicitur Id.

— Multa transeunt cum universitate, quæ per se non transeunt. C. L. Sec 4~~0~~

— Verba relata hoc maximè operantur per referentiam ut in esse videntur C. L. Sec. 1.

— Certum est quod certum reddi potest. C. L. S. 58.

— — — Where of two constructions which may be put upon words, one is legal & the other not, the legal shall always be intended as the right one. C. L

— Ambiguitas verborum latens verificatione suppletur; nam quod ex facto oritur ambiguum verificatione facti tollitur. Gilb. Ev. 312.

— Ambiguitas verborum patens nullâ unquam verificatione amovetur — Idem.

— Qui hæret in litera hæret in cortice. C. L.

Maxims

Verba æquivoca et in dubio posita intelliguntur in digniori et potentiori sensu C. L. S. 97.

— Mala grammatica non vitiat cartam C. L. S 221.

— Warranties are favored by law Id. S. 697

— Idem semper refertur proximo præcedenti C. L. s 733.

— Utile per inutile non vitiatur. C. L. 1.

— Quoties in verbis nulla est ambiguitas. ibi nulla expositio contra verba expressa fienda est. Id 221.

— Cujus est solum ejus est usque ad coelum et infra usque ad inferos. Gil. Ev. 477.

— Oportet quod certa res deducatur in judicium. C. L. 2 Lib s 136 -

+ Caveat emptor. Lib 2. S. 145 -

5

Parent-

Patria potestas in pietate debet, non in atrocitate consistere - B. C. 1. 478.

Construction

- Verba generalia restringuntur ad habilitatem personæ, vel ad aptitudinem rei. Pow. Con. 1. 377.
- Verba aliquid operari debent, et cum effectu accipienda - Pow. 382.
- Mandata licita strictam recipiunt interpretationem; illicita latam et extensam. Gil. E. 141.
- Lex remedialis recipit extensionem; poenalis non item: omne majus dignum in se continet minus dignum quamvis minus dignum sit antiquius - C. L. 175 -

Heir

In restitutionem, non in poenam succedit hæres — Gil. Ev. 531.
Nemo est hæres viventis. Blacks. et passim —

Infamy

Ex delicto non ex supplicio emergit infamia G.E. 258.

Another.

Res inter alios acta alteri nocere / vel praeter jus et aequum prodeſse / non debet. Gil. Ev. 391.
Neminem oportet ex injuria alii illata fieri locupletorem. Gil. Ev. 531.
Nemo punitur pro alieno delicto. C. L. 219.
Factum unius alteri nocere non debet —

Allegiance

Nemo potest exuere Patriam. Gil. Ev. 820
Legantia naturalis nullis temporum aut locorum limitibus coercetur. Id. —

Husband & Wife—

Omnia, quæ sunt uxoris, sunt ipsius viri. C.L. 148

Res licet sit propri uxoris, vir tamen ejus custos, cum sit caput mulieris. Id.

Non habet uxor potestatem sui, sed vir. Id.

Ubi nullum matrimonium ibi nulla dos. B.C.2.130

Equity.

Jus respicit æquitatem. C.L. 21.

Bonus judex secundum æquum et bonum judicat, et æquitatem stricto juri præfert—Id.

Ipsa, etenim, leges cupiunt ut jure regantur. C.L.1.

Ratio potest allegari deficiente lege. C.L. 301.

Ratio vera et legalis et non apparens. Id.

Nullius hominis authoritas tantum apud nos valere debet, ut meliora non sequeremur si quis attulerit. C.L. 731.

Argumentum ab inconvenienti plurimum valet in lege. C.L. 87.

Non solum quod licitum sed quod est inconveniens est considerandum. Id.—

Continued

Nihil quod est inconveniens, est licitum. Id—
Nulla in jure communi contra rationem disputandi pro communi utilitate introducta sunt. C. L. 96.
Lex semper intendit quod convenit rationi. Ib. 103.
Nihil quod est contra rationem licitum est. C. L. 138.
Aliquid conceditur ne injuria remaneret impu~~ta~~nita quod alius non concederetur. C. L. 314-

Error

Communis error facit jus
Consensus tollit errorem C. L. 276.

11.

Presumption-

Ubi jus aliquod probatur omnia ex eo legitime consequentia præsumuntur Gil. Ev. 81.

Stabitur præsumptioni donec probetur in contrarium. Id.

Ubi res ipsa per se constat, præsumptioni non est locus- Gil Ev. 98

Quod jure quis agat, id pleniſsimo juris beneficio egiſse præsumitur. G. E. 470 —

Quando lex aliquid alicui concedit, concedere videtur et id, sine quo res ipsa non potest. C.L. 68

Qui non vetat, quum debeat et poſsit, jubet. G. Ev. 343_

In facto quod se habet ad bonum et malum, magis de bono quam de malo lex intendit: C.L. 113_

Nulla impoſsibilia aut inhonesta sunt præsumenda, vera autem et honesta et poſsibilia. Id.

Lex semper intendit quod convenit rationi. Id.

Nemo præsumitur donare. Es.N.P.O. 462

Omnia præsumuntur rite acta. Espinaſse N.P.O-

Omnia præsumuntur contra spoliatorem. E.N.P.O. 336.

In præsumptioni legis judicium redditur in invitum

Omnis privatio præsupponit habitum. C.L. 637. {C.L. 410

Vicinus facta vicini præsumitur scire G.E. 288_

Qui actionem habet ad rem recuperandum, rem habere videtur. G.E. 306-

Pro poſseſsione præsumitur semper. G.E. 470.

Præsumptio legis nulla probatione excluditur. Id.

Culpa æquitate non intenditur. G.E. 771.

Continued—

Quod nullius est, id naturale ratione occupanti conceditur. C. L.
Re obscura melius est favere repetitioni quasi adventitio lucro, E. A. P. 11. 392.
Accessorium non ducit, sed sequitur suum principale. Blackstone's Commentaries 2. 176—

Malice—

Voluntas et propositum distinguunt maleficia. G.E. 841.
Facti enim naturam immutat propositum agentis ubi rei natura non sit suapte criminosa. G. E. 841.
Propositum agentis rei naturam non mutat. Id.
Affectio tua nomen imponit tuo operi—
Actio non facit reum nisi mens sit rea. G. E. 515
Estimatio præteriti delicti ex post facto nunquam crescit— Gil. Ev. 845.
Omne crimen ebrietas et incendit, et detegit. C.L. 405
Furiosus solo furore punitur. Id.
In criminalibus sufficit generalis malitia cum facto paris gradus - Gil. Ev. 777—

Minor.

Meliorem enim conditionem facere potest minor deteriorem nequaquam C. L. 135. —

Law.

Ubi eadem ratio, idem est jus.
Jus respicit æquitatem. C. L. 21
Qui prior est tempore potior est jure —
(De minimis non curat lex. G. E. 82.
De non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est lex G. E. 81.
Lex non vult supervacua neque nimis subtilia: infi-in lego reprobatur G. Ev. 81.
Lex potius vult pati privatum inconveniens quam publicum malum G. Ev. 98.
Lex vult ut neminem sibi crediti poeniteat G. E. 113
Interest Reipublicæ ut ne sint delicta impunita G. E. 222.
In pari delicto potior est conditio defendentis Id. 355
Neminem oportet esse legibus potentiorem. Id. 755.
Ignorantia juris non excusat G. E. 764.

Continued

Impotentia excusat legem 3 B. C. 2d 127-
Lex summa ratio C. L. 80
Jura publica ex privato promiscuè decidi non debent —— C. Litt. 96-
Ceſsante ratione legis, ceſsat beneficium legis. Id. 103-
Lex spectat naturæ ordinem. C. L. 127.
Lex non cogit ad impoſsibilia Id—
Neminem oportet eſse sapientiorem legibus. C. L. 138.
Quilibet potest renunciare juri pro se introducto. Id. 140.
Firmior et potentior est operatio legis quam hominis Id. 145
Expedit reipublicæ, ut sit finis litium. Id. 146—
Res judicata pro veritate accipitur. 146—
Inutilis labor et sine fructu non est effectus legis. 174.
Actus legis nemini injuriam facit. C. L. 122—
Apices juris non sunt jura. C. L. 534.
Parum differunt quæ re concordant. 175—
Actus neceſsarii pro legitimis habeatur; modo justa sit neceſsitas. G. C. 365-
Oportet quod certa res deducatur in judicium } C. L. 136
Exempla illustrant, non restringunt legem. C. L. 24.a.

Wills

In contractibus benigna, in testamentis benignior, in restitutionibus benigniſſima interpretatio facienda est. C.L. 168

Cum duo inter se pugnantia reperiuntur, in testamento, ultimum ratum est. Id.

Ultima voluntas testatoris est perimplenda veram intentionem suam. C.L. 586.

Reipublicæ interest suprema hominum testamenta rata haberi – C.L. 586.

Pleading

Ordine placitandi servato, servatur et jus. C.L. 534

Ambiguum placitum interpretari debet contra proferentem. Id.

Expedit reipublicæ ut sit finis litium. Id.

Certa debet eſſe intentio et narratio, et certum fundamentum, et certa res quæ deducitur in judicium. Id.

End of Williams Notes

1846 Book 20 } Continuation of Sketch Book No. 20, from page 336 of a paper stitched book to [illegible] of 1846. 337

October 8th continued } If it be true that a skull has been dug from the ground near this Rock, perforated with a ball, little or no doubt remains that it is the place where the Col. was interred, and it agrees pretty well with the description given me by Thomas Moore of this town, who assisted in burying him. A [illegible] with this rock is very near the spot where the Colonel fell. Hendrick's Indians must have been further [illegible] when the firing commenced. A monument erected on this rock would be very satisfactory to travellers who pass on the road.

Williams' Rock

Note. When I first visited this ground, about 30 years ago, the road was about 20 rods west of the present road, which now ~~pas~~ passes the rock, since the alteration of the rock, east of ~~the~~ the road. At that time the [illegible] some doubts ~~in~~ [illegible] the identity of the rock; but it is [illegible] ~~where~~

letr the road was at the time of the ambus-
cade; but if Williams' skull
8 has been dug from the ground,
as it is asserted, it is certain the
Colonel fell out, or near, the road.
Mr Van Schaack, who was with
McGinnis and Folsom, in the
attack on Dieskau's defeated troops,
informed me that he saw Col.
Williams' dead body near the
road.

9 Friday Morn fair, wind SW.
and the day fine and so warm
that fire was unnecessary in my
room: at evening some rain
fell and still heavier rain pre-
vailed. Some thunder was
heard.

10 Saturday. Morn fair, wind N.
and cooler air, day fine & pleasant
A letter from my Son to his wife
Letter of the 4th inst. says, his family is in
from West Chazy, camp in a tent, and
my have a hunter to procure game,
Son fish &c. and to cook for them.
He finds his Camp-bed very conve-
nient; but is not its transporta-
tion difficult, without roads?

10. The workmen on our rail road are now laying the rails on the road from Bloody brook to Cheapside and intend to complete it to the bridge at the latter place in a short time; they are also making a depot on Martin's hill opposite to our village. Of the unwise choice of the route from Long hill to the bridge I have already expressed my opinion. If the embankments over the deep ravines prove durable it will be beyond my expectations

New Rail road

11 Sunday. Fair morning; wind N.E; strong frost last night; the day clear & very pleasant.

Some of our street maples show the high autumnal yellow, while others still retain their green hue.

A catholic assembly this day at our town house, composed of Irish laborers on the rail-road & a catholic priest, who seemed to command implicit obedience of his dogmas.

340 Oct 11. In the various systems of religion now prevailing, how few of the people ever examine the foundation of their belief? If born in a Catholic country, they are followers of the scheme there taught, and the same holds true in all other systems, each believing their own is the only true one from the Deity. But setting aside forms & rituals as of little or no importance, that religion is best which enforces the best moral principles, and make the best members of society: or as says the Poet

"For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight.
"His can't be wrong whose life is in the right.

But: it is a question whether mankind are susceptible of a philosophical religion, which "looks through nature up to nature's God".

In Catholic countries the common people take up their religious belief from the priesthood whom they suppose infallible. Nor in Protestant countries where religion is founded on mystery, is belief very different.

Octr 12 Monday. Fair morn, wind
N.E; afternoon wind to SW. and very pleasant weather: the ground dry, and Springs low.

The war

For some time we have little intelligence from the seat of war. By the last accounts it appears that the mexicans were collecting a force to meet our army, and a battle is looked for; but I think they will not attempt a general action, unless they possess some strong place well fortified. Thus far they have found a strong opposing force in their climate, and this force may continue to act, even at this season of the year; but probably California, or North mexico, must submit to annexation and democratic liberty soon to be extended over America vi et armis.

13 Tuesday. Morn. cloudy and wind W.— the day continued cloudy and some rain fell in the afternoon.

Rumor says ~~that~~ Genl. Taylor and the Mexicans have had

342 four days of hard fighting;
Oct. and that the Americans have
13. captured several of the Mexican
posts and fortifications, but
Rumors of ye Battle } no particulars of the battles have
been received. Our volunteers
may have now found other
employment than mutiny and
insubordination.

14. Wednesday: Morn fair, rain
last night, — wind NW. At
night sunny & wind W.

~~The~~ Norfolk Herald of the 12th
inst. confirms the rumor of
Yesterday's rumor confirmed } yesterday; the fighting took place
at Monterey the 19th 20th 21st
22d 23d & 24th of September: On the
last day ~~the~~ ~~town~~ the Mexicans
surrendered the town by capitulation.
No return of killed and wounded is
given. An armistice of eight weeks is
agreed to, between the two armies
and neither to pass a certain line;
General Ampudia commands the Mexicans. The favorable terms granted
by Gen Taylor are said to be "due to
the Mexicans for their "good defence of the place

Octr. 14

Battle at Monterey

From the length of the operations and the terms granted by Gen. Taylor, it is evident that the Mexicans were very ready to close ~~[illegible]~~ the combat, without an attempt to storm Ampudia's citadel. In such a series of attacks on a fortified place, it is probable the loss on the part of our troops has been severe; and our volunteers

Remarks on

may have been taught that fighting is not a very inviting sport, nor a school for the propagation of democracy.

P.S. A later account in a Boston paper, states Gen. Taylor's loss in the above actions at 500 killed and wounded,—probably much less than the battle, if the place even so strongly fortified as is stated.— Taylor's force, stated at 6000. and Ampudia's at 10.000. But these are random reports—

Monterey is said to have fortified at every position capable of annoying our forces, & defended by a great numerical superiority of force. Under all the circum-

344 stones, it is a question whether the
Octr attack was not a departure from
14 the prudent rules of war, and
partook of rashness? — Wise com-
A manders have seldom attempted
rash to carry well fortified places by
attem storm, but have had recourse
to cautious approaches by the
rules laid down for sieges.
But among other democratic
innovations now so rife, the
art of war must not escape mod-
ification. Time however, may
teach us that something is due
to long experience, and that
democracy & science have very
little affinity.

15 Thursday. Morn fair, wind
S.W. P.M. cloudy

D.M. At page 334, I have noticed the
Hoyt's death of D. Marvin Hoyt at Rut-
death land Vermont. This was the first
it. account, which proves incorrect.
Hoyt was shot by a Mr. Myers.
and lived several days, with some
prospects of recovery, but his wounds
proved mortal, & Myers is under du-

Octr 15 This day & yesterday an agricultural show at Northampton and an address delivered.

Agricultural societies

Agricultural Societies have much helped to a considerable extent in the Northern States; and attempts are making to render farming more consistent with scientific principles, and it is believed with the same success. These societies with many periodical publications, at a cheap rate, must diffuse among the people ~~useful~~ useful information, and it is hoped will allay the spirit of ~~political~~ party, introduced by designing men who would sacrifice the welfare of the country to gratify their utopian schemes, & plunge it into confusion.

16 Tuesday. Warm partially cloudy with S.W. winds; the day generally fair & mild one.

The rail road Engine & baggage car have come at [illegible] opposite to the [illegible] village limits ~~with~~ routes:

Octr 16 Our papers will now find matter for their columns in the details of the Battle at Monterey, particularly in the chivalrous exploits of individuals. By our young men these individual details will be read with avidity, as proofs of bravery, but without reflecting for a moment on the sufferings of the killed & wounded, or the morality of the war. Such are the false notions entertained by the inexperienced, of military prowess.

Monterey Battle

17 Saturday. Morn fair but soon became cloudy – dull S.W. wind continued so through the day.

This day the town held a meeting to determine whether it would confirm the laying of a short road [illegible] by the selectmen to the depot running on Morton hill, and the vote was equally divided; of course the road was not established and the consequences

Town meeting

Octr be, that we may be de- 347
17 prived of a depot; for the
Grounds railroad company is not
to a bound to furnish one there.
Depot Our Records may show a
rejected decision equally unwise, but I
believe none so suicidal to our
interest; and by what mode
of reasoning the people were
Re induced to reject the road is to
marks me unknown. True indeed
on the location of the road is an
unwise one; but what then?
Shall we deprive ourselves of
its benefits, out of resentment.
It is an old rule, and I think a
wise. "When we cannot do as we
would, we must do as we can."
A departure from this rule is al-
ways attended with evil conse-
quences, and I think the people
of this village will hereafter rue
the decision they have made,
and perhaps when too late

Octr 17 Gen. Taylor's capture of Monterey

No number on the late battle

In the accounts of the various attacks on this place much applause is bestowed on the bravery of our troops, and it is not to be doubted that they were entitled to this applause. But it remains to be shown that these attacks were such as a prudent commander would order.

Of the regular troops no doubts could be entertained of their firmness and obedience of orders; but to the volunteer corps the same was novel, and whether they might not misgive was doubtful. Troops of this description may be led into action by determined officers, but when they come to encounter the hin[illegible] of a battle they are [illegible] are liable to sudden panics; 17· and it often happens that ~~they~~ ~~that~~ they lose their resolution, on a second exposure, [rather better under and make but feeble efforts, raw troops from a want of mechanical discipline and regulated obedience, essential in combination, and which renders disciplined troops so formidable. But while we are disposed to award due praise to the troops for their bravery, we regret that we are compelled to say, that the war is wholly unjustifiable, on our part, and clearly for conquest of territory, regardless of the rights of a neighboring republic, which demands our commiseration instead of our ~~[illegible]~~ enmity.

The war will present us in no favorable light among the nations of Europe, and may be the means of of our degradation.

350

Octr 18. __Sunday.__ Cloudy morn. - wind NE and rain last night, day cloudy, & some rainy.

Fire in Greenfield

At about 8 o'clock this morning we were given the alarm of fire, which was found to be in barn of Stephen Root in Greenfield village. The barn was consumed, and the flames extended to carriage-house connected with his dwelling house, but the latter was saved by the exertions of the people. The cause of the fire is not ascertained.

Accidents of this kind will always be frequent, but by what means they would help so, and how far they are ~~kindled~~ caused by spontaneous combustion we know not. Fortunately for us, ~~the~~ friction matches which infest our buildings, are incapable of kindling fires: possessing this excellence we never should be safe in our dwellings; and some [illegible]

Oct 18. these primitive friction matches: the danger of conflagration is very much increased. Perhaps the invention is an unfortunate one.

Prior to the invention of matches, the flint & steel were a safe and sure resort, but in both cases combustibles were required to produce a blaze, and these were found in dried birch or decayed wood, as well as a fungus substance found in the old maple, called spunk or punk.

Thus provided, the experienced hunter never finds it difficult to kindle his fires, ~~and~~ cook his game, & lodge comfortably at night.

19 Monday. Heavy wind NE & cool; the day very chilly & unpleasant. Indications [illegible] [illegible].

The papers contain accounts of great damage done by a violent wind on Sunday night last; and what is singular nothing is heard of any

thing of the kind here

352 In looking over the proceedings
Octr of Democratic conventions, it [illegible]
19 — to notice the course they always take
to continue the delusion they have
spread among a portion of the
people. Could we suppose them
aiming at the welfare of commu-
nity, and acting from honest mo-
tives, we might view them with
less disgust.

Demo-
cratic
ris &
humbug

In the last ~~Greenfield~~ Democrat,
we see a string of Resolutions that passed
at a late meeting in Greenfield, for
the nomination of Senators for this
County. The first resolution is in
the following words:

"Resolved. That every years experience
confirms us in the opinion
that the great principles of the Demo-
cratic party of the United States, are
based on sound Republicanism and
pure Christianity!!

Demo-
cracy &
Christ-
ianity

Had they (Framers or the leaders.)
substituted for the two last lines
the following, viz: Founded on the [illegible]

ctr principles of perpetual motion in
19 ~~opposition~~ to the laws of gravitation, the
repulsion would have been equally
wise — Democracy based on pure
Christianity!! What ideas the
leaders of this restless class among
to Christianity, or how many among
them are declared Atheists, I will
not say, but leave it to others to
decide.

The 6th Resolution is the following
"Resolved. That in the settlement of the
Oregon question, the Administration
has afforded another example of its
wisdom, prudence, and compromising
spirit, and that it is guided by the
principle that 'Peace is the best inter-
est of Nations,' when it can be ob-
tained without sacrificing our rights
or honor."

Now, many said in the party were
sorely disappointed at the adjust-
ment of the Oregon question, and would
have been gratified had war & comme

Octr 354) declare war against Great
19 Britain for ^perhaps a tract of wild woods,
rather than to have made 49 degrees

Re- of latitude the boundary. But Mr.
mark Polk having consented to that
on line, at the risk, it is true, of his
democratic popularity, he must
be sustained by the party; and the
step held up as "another" proof
of his wisdom; but his love of
peace, it seems, is not extended
Irony to "the miserable, vacillating, and
their dishonest Mexican wretch"; which
subjects has the audacity to assert its rights
and resist our encroachments
on her territory, "for the extension
of the area of freedom, and civil
ization, and Christianity, by ad
addition of new states to the Gal-
axy of our Federal union".

Other resolutions are equally
deceptive; but a majority of
the people of this State are not
to be gulled by superficial acts
of this deception. The leaders
of this ~~deception~~ ^party should continue

Sept. themselves with the ebulliences of
19 their followers, and not attempt to
fix them an intelligible mean.
But why notice these ebullitions;
since they are but the spasmod-
ic efforts of a diseased state of
the body politic that always will
be found, when the unprincipled
& deluded part of society have the power to
disturb the harmony, and expel
the wholesome laws and institu-
tions of a country at the ballot
boxes. In the western and south
western States, this spasmodic dia-
thesis may be coincident to the
conditions of the untamed state of
society; but in the northern states
it should find no place for
its deleterious influence.

20. Tuesday. Rain more & wind N.E.
and, the whole day fair but lofty
scattering clouds.

Six months, nearly, have elapsed
the war since the commencement of the war
with Mexico, and who among you
would have anticipated that only

Oct. 20 Fired with the spirit of "Seventy Six"
and the reaction principles
of democracy, they believed
Wild impetuosity that ~~in~~ this time our volunteers
would have peaceable possess-
ion of the "halls of Montezuma".
A march of 400 or 500 miles
through a country of six or
seven millions of inhabitants
was but the pastime of boys. of
serious battles they never
dreamed, and if per chance, they
occurred,
"They had no care but how to kill
Two at a blow"

Lesson Taught But the resistance Gen. Taylor's
army has met with at Monte-
rey, may have cured this volun-
teer mania, and taught them that
the Mexicans can fight.
Another lesson may have been taught
viz: that when a country is invaded
a supply of provisions and mili-
tary stores are necessary to in-
sure success. This consideration
seems to have been overlooked by [illegible] but
[illegible] calculate for evacu[illegible] where

Octr 20 knowledge of its operations is not less limited than that of the political scheme they would support.

21. Wednesday. Fair morn - wind W.; day generally fair.

It is said, in the papers, that Mr Polk and cabinet, ~~and~~ displeased with the terms granted to the Mexican army on the surrender of Monterey, have rejected the armistice, and ordered Genl Taylor ~~[illegible]~~ to advance full speed [illegible]. To conduct an army of volunteers is irksome enough, but to be dictated by men who "Never set a squadron in the field," or "of a [illegible] more ~~[illegible]~~ than a spinster" ~~[illegible]~~, is more disgusting to an experienced commander. Is Mr Polk becoming impatient at the systematic movements of Gen. Taylor, and turning his eye to a commander less [illegible] [illegible] who [illegible] Gen. Jackson [illegible].

35 I will draft forward and
act. feed his men on acorns?

21 Perhaps among the ~~newly~~ fluent
~~fledged~~ Generals, he may find
one more rapid ~~—~~ a rash
Gen. Brown of Mr. Madison's
war, who deems strategic
skill, but merely relics of old
warfare ~~[illegible]~~ grown obsolete
since the days of Washington.
Gen. Taylor, no doubt, is aware of the im-
portance of obedience to orders,
but he will hardly consent to
feed his men on Gen. Jackson's
acorns.

22 Thursday. Morn thinly cloudy; wind S.W. and the day
continued thickly cloudy.

By ~~[illegible]~~ account, it ap-
~~[illegible]~~

Mex- Now the Mexicans under
can Santa Anna are uniting &
news making preparations for
a vigorous defence of ~~the~~ Coun-
try against an impudent ~~[illegible]~~

6 Nov 22. Our democracy may then find the same more severe than they. ~~And~~ anticipated. By experience the Mexicans may be converted to soldiers, and if united under a steady government we may find them a formidable nation, not so easily managed as our political enthusiasts had supposed.

If ever a nation was called to the defence of its liberties against the injustice and [illegible] rapacity of a much braver people, it is that of Mexico at this time and if she declines the call she may resign her independency, ~~[illegible]~~ acknowledge her incapability of self government, resign her station among nations, and sink into savage without a sigh or a groan at their degradation.

360 Friday. Warm-fair, wind W.
Octr. followed by a cloudy day
23.

Considerations on the war

From the present aspect of the war, it would be idle to expect a speedy termination of it. If the Mexicans have determined to defend their country and to put forth their whole strength, we may find them more powerful than we anticipated. By adopting the plan of fortifying their towns, and fighting under cover of works, they will present obstructions to our progress not looked for, and be attended with an immense loss of blood, of which the capture of Monterey is a specimen. If every other town is as well fortified, our army will make but slow advances towards the main object of the operations. I think Gen. Taylor will hardly be disposed to carry Saltillo by storm; when the same may be effected by siege, and in this mode he may save an army.

Octr 23. of regular troops necessary. In the mean time the sources of his extortion may expire, more money must be raised, new grants of money made by Congress, and probably direct taxation be imposed. When this latter is resorted to, the people will begin to inquire into the necessity of the case, and look to the ballot-boxes. When the tax gatherer comes, the people (as Mr. Jefferson has said in another case) things will be set to rights. See his Letter to Callender, inclosing money for the publication of "The Prospect before us." Octr 6th 1799.

The truth is, the people of a free country, whose self interested moral obligations prevail, will never long sustain a war for conquest. If a war be defensive they may be compelled to fight for the protection of their families and property; but this stimulus is feeble when the contest is distant from their homes.

362 Octr 24. Saturday. Morn. fair, some thin clouds with NW wind, and the day generally cloudy & some rain.

A letter from my son Arthur informs that he is about 26 miles westerly of Plattsburgh, pushing his survey through a snow of several inches in depth. Date Octr 19th instant.

The attack on Monterey. From the various accounts received of Gen. Taylor's attack on Monterey it is evident the contest was severe, and the loss is said to have been much underrated. The 3d regiment U.S.I. is stated, lost 5 successive commanders, and to have been reduced to 71 men including officers. Were these attacks on such strong works dictated by the circumstances? It is dangerous for a commander to treat his enemy in too much contempt. Witness the British attacks at Bunkers Hill and New Orleans.

the

Oct. 24 } An undisciplined body may fight especially when posted behind parapets, who would give way to the first fire in the open field, or to a regular charge with the bayonet.

In the various attacks on New Orleans both regulars and volunteers fought with resolution; the former from mechanical discipline and repeated obedience to orders; the latter from a wild impulse, devoid of reflection, as is seen in [illegible] a high degree of inebriation. But this impulse is fluctuating and uncertain in its effects, and often misgives on a nice exposure. Among volunteers who turn out on the spur of the occasion, a few men may be found who possess the spirit of soldiers, but a great portion of them are found unfit for steady military duty; and a commander cannot calculate with certainty the effect of their onset

36 This evil at inspection is generally
art. mistaken, by inexperienced men."

24. In discipline and courage; and this is the great error in estimating the difference of disciplined soldiers and militia. A protracted war may correct our false notions of discipline & of the operations of armies.

25 Sunday: fair morn & westwind; the day fair with considerable wind. The sun has now become colder than we have felt this season. Some of our maples are stripped of the leaves, while others remain full.

27 Monday: Fair morn, wind N.W. and the day fair throughout.

rail road cars comm 29 I am informed the passenger cars from Northampton proceeded on the rail road to Cheapside bridge this day with passengers: the bridge is not yet completed, but will be ready within a few weeks.

Oct 26 Our papers are now heaping fulsome praise on our troops for the bravery they exhibited in their attacks on Monterey; and when we have overrun the whole of Mexico, and sacked the Capital City," the invasion & conquest, will no doubt be trumpeted through our cities & towns as a proof of our ability in "defending our national rights", at the expense of those of a neighboring republic unable to protect their injured democratic capacity. What patriots will not recoil at such injustice. The war on our part is undeniably offensive, and waged for conquest of territory; and disguise it as we may, it cannot bear a less disgraceful cognomen.

Mr Polk ordered an "Army of Observation" to the frontier of Texas, and finding it would not be there opposed by the Mexicans, pushed his troops to the Rio Grande for the very purpose of bringing on

The
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esp.

386 war with Mexico, that he might
extr. invade other parts of this territory
26. and annex them to our Union; and
decid- and all this without the consent of
ed Congress who alone possess the
constitutional power of "declaring
war". If this proceeding be es-
tablished as a precedent, our Presi-
Re- dents will never be at a loss for
marks means for provoking war with
on neighboring nations, and Congress
must submissively consent to
the process. What then is our
present constitution but after
the *India rubber* that will fit
any circumstances!
When a nation becomes thus
lost to all sense of moral obli-
gation and right, it is prepared
for cupidity & spoil & ruin;
and its character may be *duly*
estimated by civilized nations.
The election of Mr Polk to the
Presidency has been considered
as unfortunate to the welfare
of the country. True [illegible] be

Octr. 26. been the cause of the war, and would have plunged us into another, with Great Britain, had not the senate wisely checked her career; but on reflection it becomes a question, whether the wild course of democracy can have been checked by a wise administration, which would have avoided a war? In the present state of the democratic mind, something beyond argument is necessary to allay its hostile spirit — something that would bring *home* to the *feelings* the distresses of its furious course; and perhaps nothing short of a war and its heavy cost, to be defrayed by *direct taxation*, would have so thoroughly cured the existing mania. What a pity that these immoderate men cannot be compelled to pay the cost of their folly!

368 Oct. 27 Tuesday. Cloudy warm, wind S.W. ~~very~~ continued cloudy in the night.

Tactical views of the war

In my further remarks on the operations of our ~~armies~~ victorious in Mexico, my ~~design~~ is to treat of them tactically and strategically, without always adverting to the conjunctures of the [illegible].

Gen Superi ority troops

The regular troops under Gen ~~Taylor~~ [illegible] were well disciplined and fit for service, and the officers well qualified for their respective commands; but of the volunteers ~~recently~~ called into the field I think it proper to express ~~my~~ doubts of their efficiency in a regular battle. They may indeed possess native bravery, and sometimes perform ~~useful~~ service as light troops and in skirmishes; but ~~their~~ attacks will always be uncertain in their results, and liable to [illegible]

Octr panies, their want of me-
27. chanical discipline, subordina-
tion to their officers, & habits of
implicit obedience to orders. In
a camp distant from an ene-
my they will be too ready for
mutiny and other disorders –
As the termination of service
for which they are engaged ap-
proaches, they will turn their
thoughts homewards, become
impatient and regardless of
their duty; and thus the com-
mander in chief may find him
self without a competent
force, perhaps at a critical moment
when they are most wanted;
and thus his plans entirely frus-
trated. If reinforced by simi-
lar troops, they will be raw & inef-
ficient for a time, the same
course of instruction required an
them as that other first corps.
Thus the camp will be
a perpetual drill school with
out efficient soldiers. There

Depot of vol- unteers another

37th Thus are some of the in-
Octr conveniences embarrassments attendant upon
27. militia troops engaged for short
terms of service.

Extra expense of volunteers

Necessarily connected with this mode of supplying troops, is the extra expense. By this mode, when the term of the temporary troops are about to expire, the government must first under pay for a time, double the number of troops required for the service, so that, in marching home & to the army, a very considerable expense will be incurred, and, at the last, the army supplied with new troops unfit for the service, until they have been in the school of discipline for months. What commd would risk his reputation at the head of troops of such discordant materials? and especially if his enemy is composed of regular, permanent soldiers?

ctr. Wednesday. Cloudy morn
28. with rain and wind at N. E.
& in the day continued cloudy. In
Rail this day Dan Cummins fulli
ian opened his feeding
r
ve. The Rail road Cars now make
two trips up & down per
day, to Cheapside, conveying
passengers. Travelers now
have a passage to Boston, New
York or Albany within a
few hours. — But aside from
the facility of traveling, the ques
tion presents how far the
railroad through our town
will be advantageous to our
interest? Shall we find an
increased demand for any of our
products? Doubtful. The trader
may transport his goods from
Boston & other marts, for a less
expense than by teams, but this
saving will not materially affect
the price of his articles in his store

37 will he exchange his goods
Oct. for our products at a better
28. rate than before? We think
not. The travel passing through
the town will be on the rail
road instead of through our Street.
Suppose the number of travelers
to increase — what then? We
shall see nothing of them, but
the puffing smoke of the dirt
engine, unless business calls
upon the village.

Benefits of rail roads limited.

The truth is, they would offer
little benefit to the interior agricultural
towns over which they pass;
and the present zeal for con-
structing them on routes, other
than those between great marts
will soon subside, and the
industrious man will find
that his farm or workshop
will afford him profit and
support, without receipt of
~~benefit~~ from ~~the~~ rail roads

Octr Thursday. Rain morning, wind
29. SW. and clear day.

In tracing and analyzing the operations of our armies in Mexico I find a want of maps, on a large scale, embracing the topography of the country, without which no correct opinions can be formed of the movements by any one who has not a personal knowledge of it. A good topographical delineation of all the rivers lakes, marshes, mountains, hills, defiles and passes, obviates the difficulty, and enables us to estimate the operations with some degree of accuracy. Such delineations, it is hoped, will be furnished by the engineers of the army, who have been instructed in the West Point academy.

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Aided by a small compass for the bearings, a practical eye will estimate distances, and sketch maps of the rout of an army with sufficient precision.

These sketches of the country

374 when made at good distance in
Octr advance of an army, are of great
29 importance to a commander
in regulating his movements, -
and in a country little known,
indispensable

30 Friday. Cloudy morn — wind
N.W.; and the day continued
cloudy; air moderate.

Last night Col. Bryant arrived from Chicopee-Falls, on the rail road cars. He appears to be much engaged in the study of chemical agriculture, and is making experiments in farming; which he thinks important. The theory of manures attracts his attention; and he dwells upon their elementary principles and their operation in the growth of plants. Agriculture under this theory, may assume ~~in~~ a degree among farmers, and many of our soils, now deemed of little value, ~~may~~ become profitable, to the cultivator.

Octr. 31. Saturday. Cloudy morn; wind N. Last night some rain fell, and the distant hills are capped with a slight snow; the day continued cloudy & cold indicating the near approach of winter.

The railroad engine now gives off an extended cloud of vapor and smoke on its passage by our valley, ~~like~~ resembling a thunder cloud.

When we first saw Dr. Darwin's prediction,

"Soon shall thy arm, unconquered steam, afar
"Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car",

we hardly expected to see this prediction fulfilled by an actual proof at this time. To what an extent the application of the laws of nature may carry us, we know not. Let us then pursue improvements, remembering that man can never go beyond his limits, nor bend those laws to his wishes. When he attempts this, his efforts are vain, and he meets with disappointment. To

374
Octr.
31. In the application of Steam power to mechanical operations, "science philosophy" in her recondite researches seeing this a possible, ceased not her efforts, until she accomplished her object, and turned the gigantic power to useful purposes.

Novr.
1. Sunday. Morn partially cloudy, and wind N.E. the day generally cloudy, and air moderate.

Discovery of a new planet.

A new Planet. The Liverpool Mercury of Octr. 2, received at Boston says, on the 23d of September this planet was discovered at Berlin by M. Galle, the existence of which have for sometime suspected by M. Le Verrier. It was also observed at London on the night of the 29th of September. its Right ascension on the 30th 21h. 52m. 47,15 seconds: South declination 13°. 27'. 20". appearing like a star of the 8th magnitude; its orbit far beyond that of Uranus, and its disk 2 or 3 seconds in diameter. A Boston

Novr 1. paper says, the Planet was probably seen at the Cambridge observatory on last Wednesday evening last, with about the same R.A. & D. as those given at London.

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What may be the limits of the Solar system we know not, nor can we say to what distance the Sun's attraction may extend. The orbits of comets we suppose extend to a vast distance beyond that of Uranus, and are brought back towards the Sun by attraction. When we contemplate such vast dimensions the laws of gravitation which govern the heavenly bodies, we are confounded. But as M. Biot remarks "whatever may be the progress of science, the principle of universal gravitation is unalterably fixed, since it rests upon undeniable facts, and its duration will be eternal." See Farrar's translation of Biot printed at the University Press. Cambridge, 1827, page 357. Vol.

Biot's work, Traité Elementaire d'Astronomie Physique, in 3 vols, at Paris

Parts only selected by Mr Farrar.

378 Monday. Morn cloudy – wind
No & NE, the day the Same
2.. Col. Bryant & Isabella left us
at 11 oclock, still in the Canvas for
Chicopee Falls; – passage of about
1½ hours.

By accounts in the papers it
appears that the Mexicans ~~are~~ making
vigorous preparations for ~~acti~~
ing our inactive army; and
Gen. Taylor may yet find his
advance more difficult than
he had anticipated. By acting
on a ~~single~~ line of operation, he
may find his flanks & rear exposed
and his communication cut ~~of~~
by guerilla practices.
The operations of Gen. Massena
in Portugal in the year 1810
may afford useful lessons
for Gen. Taylor. With an over-
powering French army Massena entered
Portugal, and after his ~~[illegible]~~ defeat at Busaco
made sundry efforts to turn Lord Wellington's
left, that he ~~Lord~~ [illegible] retired [illegible]

Mex
icans
prepar
ations
for war

Nov 2. position at *Torres Vedras*, about 30 miles north of Lisbon, where he fortified a line of works extending from the Tagus towards the Sea coast. Massena with an army of 80000 of the best troops of France, lay some months in front of Wellington's lines with the design to break through them; but finding them too strong and his provisions insufficient for his troops, was compelled to give up his thoughts of an attack, and retreat precipitately, followed by Wellington who made several successful attacks on the retreating French and drove them from Portugal.

It is possible that the Mexicans may find a *Torres Vedras* which shall prove equally fatal to Gen. Taylor's invading army.

3. *Tuesday*. Morn. cloudy & foggy with same wind N.E. and the day continued the same

In looking over the climatic papers especially at this time, when the

300 where our elections of State offi-
Novr cers is at hand, it is sickening to
3. the honest man to notice the
deceptive arts used to mislead
the people. They may be con-
sidered as the pernicious weeds
which in rich soils, infest the
Their wholesome crops of the farmer and
tendency which he is compelled to extirpate
of to insure the growth of wholesome
crops. Were citizens honest and
enlightened these publications
would have little effect. But alas!
a certain part of community is al-
ways ready to be gulled by them,
especially the jealous and uneasy
men, who discern no beauty in
a well organized government.
Were these deceptive publications
to cease their sway, the great body
of the people would become ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ more ~~[illegible]~~ esteemed.
~~and the institutions of~~ ~~[illegible]~~ government
~~held~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~contempt~~
~~We~~ can not say that all Vir-
ginians who [illegible] the [illegible]

are called anxiously, and *intentionally*.

3. Reasoning means destructive to our
country, for there are taught opin-
among those, who reflections [illegible] at
their pleased principles they deceive and are pos-
sessing ~~that~~ we may say ~~that~~ they
are in danger of embracing princi-
ples that will lead them into gross
errors which will mar their happi-
ness, & detract from their usefulness
in society. *Whether dissent of*
the modern radical sceptic, is a
sort of *nondescript*, on whom
it would be difficult to confer an
appropriate cognomen. He is at
war with society and its *salutary*
~~laws~~ institutions and, since it neither has
~~power~~, would undermine the laws of society
as well as those of nature.
That such men should be found
among us is not so strange as that they
should acquire an influence among
[illegible]. We have called them
~~men~~ ~~[illegible]~~ sceptics, but their [illegible]
~~[illegible]~~ among the [illegible] at the

No 3. The conduct of our democratic papers shows most conclusively the absolute rottenness of their scheme. Where men of elevated talent and honest principles are found, they are placed as targets to be shot at. Gov. Briggs, one of the purest men in the country, is thus placed, mainly because he is not of their party, while they well know he possesses all the qualities of a pure republican. But it happens that the moral sense of a majority of our State, are not to be misled by such pernicious measures; and so long as the people remain honest and enlightened; good men must not be repudiated. When ~~must~~ eminent men are thus cast off, and men of opposite qualities are chosen to places of trust, the country is on the broad road to ruin, and this is the direct tendency of the democratic papers have diffused among the people; ~~and~~ The only [illegible]

[illegible] of de- [illegible] cratic [illegible]

Nov. 3. ...vis, that they should for a moment, be deluded by them. When adversity shall have become less prevalent, the people will open their eyes, and wonder at the delusions which have been imposed upon them by their demagogues.

4 Wednesday. a Moon [illegible] appeared about 10 o'clock A.M. the sun appeared but the day was generally cloudy. We hear of no movements of Gen. Taylor's invading army since the storming of Monterey. Has Mr. Polk learnt

us that a nation of 6 or 7 millions of
at. inhabitants is not so easily conquered
the as he and his minions had supposed.
wo When our inexperienced volunteers turned out, they supposed their march to the capital of Mexico was nothing more than a pleasant frolick, and that neither the hot season nor battles would retard their progress. The loss of 500 men at the storming of Monterey, the practical or tragical nature of a frolick which may have changed their infatuation to sober reflection.

304 Nov.r 4.

Weak as we are disposed to consider the Mexicans as a military nation, they may yet show us a defensive power of which we have not dreamed. When the rights and liberty of a nation are assailed by injustice and rapacity, it will, if the people are true to themselves, present formidable resistance to the assailant. If Mexico is unable to defend herself against an ambitious neighbouring nation, she may at once give up her independence and submit to degradation. Will she submit to this without a desperate struggle? Probably she will fortify her passes, mountains and towns, fill her frontiers with light troops, to act upon the flanks & rear of our columns, to cut off supplies, and as much as possible avoid general actions. By adopting this mode of warfare, the only reason, they may retard Gen. Taylor much energy [illegible] frustrate his designs:

Proba-
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major
com
effects

Novr. ence it would not be un-
4 precedented if one enemy should be com-
pelled to retire and act on
the defensive. History furnish-
es many such cases, and they
are most likely to occur when an
army advances with too much con-
fidence of success, and a ~~mean~~ low opin-
ion of the prowess of its enemy.

5. Thursday. Morn fair, wind N.E.:
& moderate air: the day very clear

The Problem

While the monarchical Gov-
ernments of Europe are at peace
and the people pursuing trade, commerce
agriculture and the manufacturing
arts without interruption, we
are involved in a war with a
contiguous sister Republic, and
pushing our armies into Mexico to the con-
quest of her territory [illegible]
Now the problem to be solved,
[illegible] following [illegible] by

Poit
one
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war

386 By what means has this
Novr. 5. State of things been produced?

Its solution — The solution involves no intricate examination of abstruse principles; since all of its connections are as clearly seen as axioms. The history of the annexation of Texas will show the rise of the difficulty with Mexico; but this annexation would not have produced a war, had Mr Polk kept his "army of observation" on the N. of the Nueces. This being done Mr Polk ordered his army through a territory of about 100 miles claimed by the Mexicans to the Rio Grand, while he well knew would produce a war; & all this without a particle of power to do the same in the Constitution of the U. States: and then he provoked the war, in or vor pliance with the plan presented 5 by the democracy who elected him. Having thus compelled the Mexicans to resist his encroachment & surrender their independence as a nation, he calls on Congress to grant him 50,000 volunteers & 10 millions of dollars to enable him to "conquer a peace"; and what excites the greatest surprise, is that Congress obsequiously complied with his scheme; and indeed, without a moments reflection on the constitutional strides he had made.

That the House of Representatives thus complied with the Polks mandates excites no surprise; but that the Senate should have been caught in his trap, is not easily explained, since they had shown a la[illegible]dable course in the Oregon question.

The war has continued six months and little indication is seen of its termination. The people who are to pay the cost, will at length

388. look to the returns, and regard it
Nov. an affirmation of the course of the
5 same; and when they rally at the ballot boxes, Mr Polk and his minions will fall back to their former obscurity.

The conquest and subjugation of California is held up as a boon; but will the people submit to this pretence and pay ~~millions~~ & millions for it, while ~~their~~ already possess more land ~~than~~ they can occupy?

Mil
enter
spirit
When a wild spirit of war prevails among a people who know nothing of its operations, dangers & hardships, they feel a strong desire to partake of its so unmerited glories; and this is particularly the case with the young, who have heard of the exploits of their Fathers; but
Sol
diers
in a short term of duty, when they feel the hardships of ~~the~~ the camp & the iron hand of its discipline, the fancied glory vanishes & generally they are very

Nov. to return to their homes and
5 embrace the peaceful employments
of domestic life.

The regular soldier is not desti-
tute of these feelings until habi-
it has overcome them; but hav-
ing enlisted the claims and
respect, and he finds no safe-
ty but in implicit obedience to ord-
ers if he fears to attack a batt-
ery or advance upon lines bristled
with bayonets, he dares not flinch
upon his actions.

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When, or how, the present war
may terminate we know not,
but of one thing we are certain
that it will not enhance our hon-
or of our country in the eyes of
the civilized nations of the world,
who could not behold injustice
and rapacity with indifference.

6 Sunday. Fine morn. wind N.E. the
sky cloudless, and the air
invigorating.

From a few returns of the

39°
Nov^r
8.

New York Election

election of the State of New York just held, the results are favorable to the cause of rational liberty. Mr Young the whig candidate it is stated in the N. York Tribune, has received a handsome support and the whig gains considerable in the various Counties of

[illegible] reports of.

the state. In the City of N York where the dregs of democracy still continue their ebullitions the result is not so favorable. Should the Great State be re-united in its politics it would be a favorable circumstance in the cause of republicanism. But I can hardly suppose there is sound sense enough as yet among the deluded

Re-marks

people of the state, to return to national republicanism. It is to be regretted that the people, or a majority of them, should so long have been deluded by their demagogues and blinded to their interests. As general knowledge increases the people will correct their errors

No 7 and the state become a 391
6. worthy and powerful member of
the political family of the Uni-
on. If, while covered with
woods, it was infested with hawk-
ing wolves and other ferocious
animals, they have now given way
as the country has been cleared
and cultivated. Will democracy
in the same manner is disappear
the cultivation of the mind.
Already have the western Counties
assumed a respectable character
and the howlings of democracy
are no longer alarming.

In the City of N york, another
of the heterogeneous mass of dis
introduced immigrants from Europe
the wildering is still found; and
~~liberty~~ lingers in its remains;
but the light & purity in other
parts of the state may at length
shine ~~through~~ the City and bring
in time the dark cabals which in-
fest its ~~haunts~~ dens?

Novr 7 *Saturday* Morn thinly cloudy wind N.E. Clouds continued through the day. Moderate air.

At page 380 I have inserted some remarks on the democratic papers of the day, and noticed their tendency. But these papers are not the most effectual means of hoodwinking the people. At the eve of an *election*, *certain agents* personally visit the dwellings of every voter of their party, especially those of the more uninformed & prejudiced, in order to fix more firmly the *blinds* upon the eyes of their *dupes*, to furnish them with votes, & stimulate them to be at the polls in season. In this way any false representation may be propagated, with little ~~more~~ chance of detection; and I believe I may safely say, that not an obscure hut, where the *right* not [illegible] Sort of people dwell, have been [illegible], in all parts of the town: Nor is this all: there agents watch the passengers of our streets, and if their dress ~~is~~ are of the [illegible] cut, they are stopped and very soon accosted in a way that shall bring out their political sentiments. If found with whig principles, the conversation is shortly turned upon some other subject, foreign to the designs of the agents.

For several ~~weeks~~ days, I have had an eye on some of these secret insidious ~~intrusive~~ ~~politicians~~ and, would be, cunning Gentlemen who in sheep-skins that particularly disguise the wolf-hide. These are beings with whom the conservatives of salutary institutions are to contend at this time. But I trust the good sense of a majority of the people will defeat the schemes [illegible]

Nov. 8. Saturday. Morn: thinly cloudy; wind N.E. — The day continued much the same, though the clouds were frequently broken, & the air was mild.

Empire State redeemed. By the New-york Journal of Commerce of yesterday the election of Seward for Governor of the State appears to be confirmed. This change evinces the democracy of conservatory principles evinces more virtue in the people, than I had anticipated. The Empire State may now resume a respectable standing from which she had [illegible] fallen since the Administration of Govern [illegible].

The Utopian Governor Wright, may now retire to his proper occupation, and learn that among a people where light is spreading the effects of dema-gogues will ~~be~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in their diseased drafts. — When our

Novr country is thus enlightened. 395
8 good men will be esteemed,
learning encouraged, and pros-perity and happiness abound;
and songs of praise and thanks-giving, be heard from every
dwelling, for the glorious renov-ation. But whether the
whole of the people can be
thus enlightened, is a question that
admits of doubt. Ignorance &
its concomitant vices have always
been found, even in civilized
countries and it ~~is~~ may be also found that
individual men will still
find aliment for their vici-ous appetites.

9 Monday. Mor. cloudy, with
some rain, and N. wind; and
day cloudy & rainy.

lec- Notwithstanding the unfav-
on orable state of the weather,
day the election meeting was
as fully attended as usual; and

394 The votes for Governor
read were as follows:
9 (189) Whig — Briggs 189 — Lieut Gov 182
(131) Loco (Davis 131 — do — [illegible]
(350) Anti Slav. Sewall 30 — do — 23
Total 3[illegible]9 — do — 344

Senators — Whig — Avery 186
Field 185

State govt. notes } Reps. to Gen. Court. Dunlap 181. Whig
(Dewolf — 130 Loco
Arms — 23 Anti 34

Reps. to Congress Ashmun 186 Whig
Taber 130 Loco

Two Selectmen Osgood
Griswold

Gov. Briggs gain 7
Davis loss 13
20

Remarks } From this statement it appears we have in the town, 131 democrats; from 40 to 50 of whom are hard fisted men, who are thorough radicals; and a few little [illegible] of [illegible] Jacobins really [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Nov.r 10 *Tuesday* Cloudy, warm-wind N. and the day cloudy.

A Boston paper says: A singular superstition has sprung up among certain classes in London who have drawn up *a petition to the Almighty, that he would remove Satan from the earth.* It is said that the precious piece of fanaticism, has actually received 80.000 signatures. (*Rambler* Nov.r 7th.)

Should his *Satanic Majesty* be removed from his office without a previous *order of notice*, his numerous *Deputies* would be left with no means of support, unless, as in the days of the *learned* Dr. Cotton Mather, they retired into the deserts, the residence of *Azazel*, for subsistence. For a pretty full history this Satanic majesty, see Mather's *Magnalia* — a Non-descript work.

398 Wednesday. Morn cloudy, some
Nov. N.E. and most of the day cloudy.
11. The weather for some time, has been mild for the season.

The votes for Governor, in our County are stated in the Greenfield Courier as follows

County votes. } Briggs 2501, Davis 1837, Sewall 450 & 1 scattering

Briggs' majority over Davis of 664, and 293 majority over all others. Our Senators, Avery & Field, are said to be elected by 200 or 300 majority. The Davis votes, however, indicate a blindness, to give it a mild name, incompatible with an enlightened people; and the Sewall votes are absolutely a fanaticity, or an insanity, which has crept upon minds hitherto supposed to be sound.

Ne [illegible] } When Mr Jefferson opened the poisonous sources of discord & corruption in the United States, did he foresee the consequences? If not, his mind was incapable of extended views. But he cannot thus truly

in his views; he saw that
contradictions existed in our system of
Government, and he very rashly applied the torch, which
has continued to blaze from that
to the present day, not much
less destructive than the that of the revolutionary
conflagration of France,
which involved Europe in the
blaze, and ultimately included
us within its sweep.
Since that time the flame could
have been extinguished, had not
other incendiaries come to
pile on combustibles, and blow
up the flame. May the fire
cease its rage, before the whole
republican fabric is reduced to
ruins, of such ~~men~~ monsters well may
we say, with an ancient patriot
'Curse on the man who owe
their greatness to their Country's ruin.'
The distracted state of the country
it is hoped, has required a course
of which clemency will pass

Nov.r 11.

Polk's election result of

reflect, and inquire into the object of its course. The election of Mr Polk to the Presidency, has involved us in a war, distinctly unnecessary, which is likely incurring a public debt of an enormous magnitude, which may require a long series of years to discharge, by direct taxation and heavy imposts; and all this to gratify a despicable ambition; and to show that our men can fight and kill, and destroy such towns and cities of a weak sister republic as insignificant as commendable as the inroads of Attila & his hords, upon the Roman Empire; and what patriot will not recoil at such principles, especially of a people claiming to be civilized. But if the leaders of the peace still persist in the carnivorous choice, determined to trample down the present adm

…of society, let them reflect
11. that the honest part of the
people, who have followed the
tories, may, at length, change
their ~~them~~ course, and perceive
the deception which has [illegible]
[illegible] time imposed upon ~~them~~
and with marked resentment
repudiate the false pretens-
ions by which they have been
deluded. The time, it is
hoped, has now come when
the people, in their consti-
tuencies, might ~~will~~ unanimously
~~and~~ put down the cloud
that has, for years past, dis-
turbed the peace & harmo-
ny of community, and may
unadulterated republicanism
again prevail and triumph.
12. Thursday. Heavy cloudy–wind
N.E.: in the day cleared the…

I have not seen the result of
the Tuesday's election through
the State; but am informed

Novr 12 the success of the conservative ticket is highly flattering to the cause of civil liberty.

Success of the Conservative ticket

It is said Governor Briggs is defeated by the people, & all or most of the gentlemen nominated on the conservative sides. This, if correct, indicates that the people are returning to good sense, and stripping off the fetters fastened them by demagogues. The contest is now not a struggle for office, but for principles by which the present form of society is to be preserved; and every patriot will rejoice at the apparent renovation with increased hopes that the people possess sufficient rectitude of mind to govern themselves in a free Government, and stem the current of corruption poured upon them from the foulest sources: the

Nov 12 prospect is cheering to the friends of republicanism, and may it continue to move onward until the fogs of Utopian democracy are wholly dissipated, and the federal principles of Washington & his co-patriots again diffused through the country. When this shall be in happy condition, no American will be ashamed of his country though he may mourn over the low condition to which it has been sunk, under the reign of false patriotism which would sacrifice its interest to acquire popularity among ~~the~~ its followers.

With the purse strings of the treasury, and his 50.000 officers it has commanded. Mr Polk may continue the same with success; but in the elections in the Northern States he will read his fate; and learn that a free

404 Since the railroad Compa-
Nov. ny contracted to carry the
12. mail from Springfield to Green-
field, much irregularity has
Irregularity of the mails { been experienced in the re-
ceipt and delivery of the
mail bags at our post office. This
I had anticipated on the
first operations; but I did
not look for a continuance
of the irregularity for several
weeks. apparently Something is wanting
in the system of convey-
ance. This derangement
explains the non-receipt of Bos-
ton papers &c.

13 Friday. Morn. Cloudy, wind
N E; the day partially fair.

Vote of the State { The result of the votes of 294
towns of our State, as given in
the Amherst Express, is the following
Briggs 53.243 — Davis 32.643 — Scatg 13.443
Last year 50 331 — 36.589 — 15.912
Gain 2.912 — Loss 3 946 — 2.469

Novr. 13 } Briggs' majority will probably be about 7.000 + &c. A symptom promising convalescence in the body politic. One or two direct taxes to support Mr. Polk's war, will effect a complete cure of the democratic mania for a time; but the country will be liable to a relapse, so long as demagogues shall be found, and they will always be plenty in a country where universal suffrage is the basis of the government, and the people possess the right of doing wrong.

Another favorable symptom appears in the result of the votes. I allude to the falling off of the Sewell ticket, or whatever other name it bears. Their voters I am ready to suppose are honest men; but I am constrained to say they evince very little judgment and are blind to the designs & plans of demagogu

1844 The horrors they entertain
Nov. of Southern Slavery, are
13 the fruits of humanity which
spring from the heart of every
patriot; but the general error
of the former is in suffering their
feelings to overcome their judge-
ments, and in pursuing means
that must inevitably defeat their
humane designs. They seem to have
lost sight of the annexation of Texas
& the failure of democracy, for the narrow
idea of more slave states, by the
conquest of northern Mexico which
would rivet the chains on the
unfortunate blackness of man.
Their only sure course then is, first,
to prostrate the schemes of the
wicked leaders of democracy, and
thereby save the fabric of our
republicanism from their perni-
cious grasp. This effected, the North-
ern States would be ready to act
against slavery. But so long
as that party ~~endeavor to embarrass~~
~~the course of the annexationism~~

Their
sympathy
their
clouds
their
judg-
ment

Their
true
course

Nov. party, so long will they retard 1847

13 the progress of an ineffectual opposition to slavery.

In the loss of votes this party have sustained, in the present election, we see returning symptoms of a wiser course; and may they pursue it, until they shall have fully retrieved the errors into which they have fallen by this singular aberration, which have excited the regret of every patriot of our country.

The loss of votes on the point of democracy, is another favorable feature. The people, it seems, are becoming disgusted with the delusions imposed upon them by demagogues; and if the light continues, our country may be saved from impending ruin, and the people become happy and prosperous.

14 Saturday. Fair morn and N.E. but most of the day cloudy — Accounts from Monterey. Say sickness was prevalent among the troops at the various Camp

408

Nov. 14.

once that many of the ~~same~~ fa-
tive, dead ~~soldiers~~, still [illegible] &c.,
were free until [illegible]

The Army

common. An exact return
of the killed, wounded, and
deaths from Sickness, in Gen.
Taylor's Army, would pro-
bably be a list not anticipat-
ed by our hasty and ~~many~~

Sickness of our troops

promised volunteers. Almost
to the capital of three and
storming of the intrenched po-
sitions will swell the list
to an appalling number, &c.
showing the men that milit-
ary service is not the most
pleasant sport. Gen. Taylor
will, in future, find that
the ~~old~~ mode of carrying places
by siege, is preferable to storm-
ing them. Mexico united, ~~can~~
under a firm government, can-
not be so easily conquered as
~~was~~ with [illegible] lead. [illegible]
[illegible] conditions [illegible] as [illegible]
~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

Nov were dissatisfaction and nepo-
14 -tism made us soldiers, and the
scampishness may make the
Mexicans equally formidable
With a Washington to conduct their
operations, Mexico may play us a
game we have not anticipated,
nay is it certain she will not
win ultimately. The great
military nations of Europe are
not blind to our strides, and they
along the coast, keep one eye on
our movements, and cannot
mistake the ambitious designs
of a party, regardless of right.

15 Sunday; Cloudy, morning wind
N.E. - and day continued
cloudy with moderate air.
Since the great success of the
Conservative ticket at the election
on Monday last, the enemy have
by and bye vociferous, and a sad
of mortifying stillness seems to pre-
vail. Another year's reflection,
if they will reflect, it is hoped

1810 will prevail in a more favor-
Novr able direction, and teach
15. them that their [illegible]actitious
grievances are not intoler-
able. By giving all their
time on the the ~~[illegible]~~ fundamental laws
of society, and, I may add those
of nature, they would find that
life, regulated life, is not
destitute of charms for
gentlemen, who hold the
rules and maxims of experi-
ence something more than
"musty records", to be thrown
among the rubbish, to
give place to utopian theo-
ries, as destitute of the gov-
erning principles of human
nature, as are the minds of
their advocates of sound sense
and discriminate judgment.

Effects of the Election

16 Monday. Morn. cloudy till
noon & N wind. the day
continued rainy and the air
cold, and snow may have fallen in
the north.

Nov.r From the latest accounts
16. from Mexico it appears that
Gen. Taylor's force lay at
Monterey; and what is the
plan of further operations is
not generally known. To ad-
vance southerly without a
certainty of a supply of pro-
visions & other stores from
the Rio Grand, might prove
disastrous. The difficulty of
supplying an army, even of
a moderate force, in an enemy's
country, will now be learned
from Gen. Taylor's operations:-
Numbers and heated enthusiasm
unavailable without ample
supplies of provisions.

17 Tuesday. Morn fair and
wind N. day continued fair and
pleasant till sun set. and the
ground unfrozen. The Fall
season has been generally mild.

412
Nov.
17

Ver-
mont's
view
of the
war

The House of Representatives of the Vermont Legislature at their late session, resolved that the State will not give her consent to the admission of any *new State* to the Union whose constitution tolerates slavery, and declaring the opinion of the House that the war with Mexico was not founded in any imperative necessity, such as may justify or excuse a Christian nation for resorting to arms, and that it has now manifestly become *an offensive* war against a neighbouring republic.

Will this view of Slavery & of the war, be considered as impolitic by the patriots of the southern States? and will the other States in this Section of

Nov. 17] manner, withhold the
expression of similar sentiments?
When a President of the U. States
assumes the power of involving
us in a war; shall his conduct
pass with impunity? And
that democracy may submit
to such a course, but true
republicans will not forget
their rights when they resort
to the ballot boxes. The time
it is believed, is approaching
when a majority of our na-
tion will return to the prin-
ciples of justice, a majority
be reinstated and the nation
resume the high character
it maintained under Wash-
ington & his co-patriots.

18 Wednesday. Also fair, wind
wind N.E., and the day clear
and pleasant air. Bill
[illegible]

414 From the commencement of
Novr. this month the wind has been
18. from the N. & N.E. & this day
and generally from the N.E.

The Boston daily Whig
Alarm of this day, says, Mr. Polk
volun- has called for 8 additional
teers regiments of volunteers for
want the Mexican war, one from
ed Massachusetts: This is im-
probable, unless the volun-
teer spirit of the south and
west has abated, which
may be the case. Hard
fighting & camp sickness
are not inviting incen-
tives to military service.
The idea of carrying on
Re- a war of invasion in a dist-
mark ant country with volun-
teer corps, is preposterous;
and Mr. Polk and his
imprudent cabinet, may

Nov. 18. At length he convinced of its futility; and agrees with H. Washington, that such troops are unfit for the real business of fighting."

Depts. vol. ritn

Their impetuous "rashness" at Monterey is no proof of their fitness for systematic fighting in the open field, where combined action and regulated obedience are essential. They may be led to action while ignorant of the danger to which they are exposed, and on a second exposure, misgive and fall into a panic, when regular troops alone can be relyed on; and at all times they are ready for mutiny and disorder; and when their term of service is about to expire, home is their inevitable object. In a protracted war of invasion, raw

426 but regular troops are found
Novr efficient. These truths have
18. been lost sight of in the
Truth empty show of the militia
lost parades and pretensions of
sight of our country; and we have
yet to learn, that farmers,
mechanics and shop-keepers
elements
are not soldiers, until they
are moulded by thorough
discipline in the tented field,
for which native bravery is
no substitute. When nations
prefer war to peace, we must
be prepared for it by a permanent force

19. Thursday. Warm cloudy, wind
SW. and some rain fell.
Our loss of men in the late
attack on Montreal has not
been officially communicated
to the public; the Messenger
estimates it at 1500,
but this is probably an exag
geration; but few sup
pose it less than 1,000 killed and

Novr 19 In withholding the real loss of our government may be entirely wisely at this time, since it might check the raising of additional forces for the war. The loss in this & the two previous battles in May, added to the deaths by sickness, would swell the list to an appalling amount, in a six months campaign; and these may be but a foretaste of scenes which may precede the conquest of Mexico. — How little was this anticipated by our statesmen in their policy on the march to the Halls of Montezuma!! But, say our democrats, it is a glorious war, and all who have fallen "have immortalized their names!" History however will not forget the motives of the war, nor the strides of Mr Polk in producing it. Let him even his adherents also reap the honours of the war, to whom the patriots of the nation lay no

Novr 20. **Friday.** Warm sunrise and wind W. (brisk); the day the same.

Mexican affairs — From the latest accounts from America it appears that their action is far from being as prosperous as the capture of Monterey; and that Santa Anna was at San Luis Potosi, with a force sufficient to prevent a further advance of Gen. Taylor's army.

Santa Anna's position — It is also stated ~~to~~ by an officer arrived at New Orleans from Monterey, that the General told him, he would not move from his present position unless accompanied with 20.000 men. And probably he will require that ~~that~~ they should be more efficient than mutinous volunteers who fight without system ~~mistakes~~ or calculated effects. Gen. Taylor may yet find that the conquest of Mexico

Novr is not to be accomplished 419
20. without a strong force of regu-
lar troops, operating under
the established rules of military
warfare as sanctioned by
skillful commanders. At the
last news of him — a system
which seems not to have been
adopted by Gen. Taylor.

21 Saturday. Morning fine and
wind N.W.; the day was
fair, though occasionally covered
with dense clouds & the air was
then cold.

When President Polk wan-
tonly plunged us into a war with
Mexico and Congress voted him
50.000 volunteers & money to "con-
quer a peace", we supposed Gen. Scott
would be placed at the head of the
army; but from some cause not
fully known to the public, that offi-
cer was suffered to remain at Washing-
ton. Whether he differed in sentiment

from the President in relation Novr. 21 - to the justice or necessity of the war, endeavors thereafter to be led be methodical in his ~~after~~ actions; for a democratic commander, we know not. Gen. Taylor, then a Brigadier of the army, was promoted to the rank of Major General, and placed at the head of the "army of observation".

That Gen. Taylor possesses some of the talents of a commander we are not disposed to deny; but still he may be lacking in the sublime genius of an able commander. His operations, thus far, prove him to be a *fighting officer*; but the experienced military eye, readily perceives some indications of his *rashness* and want of prudence.

To rush into battle and fight desperately, is no proof that a commander is competent for the station. It is stated of Bonaparte that during his first campaign in Italy, after having remained on of his

oot
21.

his Chiefs of Brigade for great bravery, he sent him to a garrison town with this remark: "No man could have fought his troops with more intrepidity than you have, but you do not possess the genius and talents of a commander".

We do not say Gen. Taylor is an officer of this character, but more time and experience is wanting to ~~[illegible]~~ entitle him to the high ~~[illegible]~~ epithet of a consummate commander. To constitute this character says a military writer, requires the assemblage of some of the noblest attributes of our nature; that power of mind; that grasp of thought which seizes almost every thing, as if by intuition; which thinks, decides and acts in the same moment; which forms the best possible judgment in the shortest possible time; which is not only cool & collected, but is roused and excited by danger & great occ

422 be written to adorn the charac-
Novr ter of a great general.

21. If such men can be found in our country
there is little chance for their promo-
tion under our democratic Govern-
ment, which repudiates talent
as aristocratical. A new list of
generals is now brought forward
whose qualifications must be tested
by experience.

22 Sunday. Morn cloudy, - wind S.W.
and the day continued cloudy
with cool air. No frost in
the ground, nor appearance of
winter. All is now calm ex-
cepting now and then a mournful
howl from the leaders of demo-
cracy, who delight in disturbing
the order of Society and would
usurp the laws of nature and "take
it within their power, and" teach
infinite wisdom how to rule."
Thanks to the returning good
sense of the people of this common
wealth, the howlings of these
troublers of society are dying away
in faint echoes which was ~~long~~ clamor
quit

Oct. 22 quiet citizens, who prefer peace and harmony to dissonant sounds which have pervaded every part of our country since the demise of the great patriot Washington, who gave America a respectable rank among the nations of Europe, and presented to the world a people whose happiness would have been permanent had not utopian theories and political corruption been diffused, by men who hold that salutary restraint and virtuous principles are incompatible with liberty. Alas! the extent to which ~~these~~ contaminating principles have been carried, since the days of Washington and his compatriots!.

23. Monday. Morn cloudy, but soon became fair, with wind at NW; last night considerable rain fell. The day continued the same.

I am informed that in the deep excavation of our canal near [illegible]

to our village, the soil has been
Novr brought down from the accl-
23. ivities and covered the rails to
Rail considerable depth. This is one
road of the difficulties I have anticipated
obstruc- from the unwise location of
tions the road. A number of workmen
have been employed in removing
the obstruction, which has thus
occurred. Similar impediments,
I fear, will often happen, all
Re- of which might have been avoi-
marks ded by a more judicious loca-
on tion, on ground nearly level, be-
tween Long-hill & Cheapside village;
and many thousand dollars have
been saved in the construction of
the road. The labor has been
uncommon vigorously, but it is to be
regretted that much of it has been misapplied
~~on~~ deep cuts & embankments which
ought to have been avoided.

This day the rail road train
passed over Cheapside bridge and reached
the depot at Greenfield village, and
the road is now open from that vil-
lage to Springfield.

Nov. 23. Had this been predicted 50 years ago, I should have considered it the wild raving of the imagination, as improbable as the prediction of Dr Darwin, quoted at page 375.

By the last letter from my son, we are informed that he and his party are still on the rail road survey easterly of Plattsburgh, through an uncultivated country where they encamp at night in a bush tent, and feed principally on pork & bread, good fare for stomachs not pampered with luxuries. The ground to sleep is free from snow. Employment of this kind is useful in the education of young men, who have firm constitutions, since it diverts them of the infecting frivolities, of a town life; and prepares them for hardships not always avoidable. The mind is also fitted for enterprize and taught to seek resources of its own in critical cases that may occur, without which man is but a feeble being, far inferior to the brute creation

426 one thus habituated to travel
Nov 23. ships and properly a good stock of elementary knowledge, rarely finds it difficult to obtain honorable employment in all conditions of life.

24 Tuesday. Fair morn - wind W. & cold, and fine day.

Elizabeth left us for Halifax where she is to stay sometime at her Father's residence. Mr Henry says about 2 inches of snow fell at that place last Sunday night, while we had none - a striking proof of the effect of altitude. For the same latitude; and shows why isothermal lines, traced on the surface of the earth, are so sinuous, embracing different latitudes. The temperature of Halifax is as low as that of some of the towns on the upper part of the valley of the Connecticut, and similar temperature is found on high mountains in lower latitudes; but in

Snow at Halifax

Reg isoth

New-England we have no mountains of perpetual congelation, though the White mountains in N. Hampshire are not far below it.

Towns situated on elevated countries, about our latitude, are very pleasant residences in summer season; but in the winter they are rather too severe for comfort, and require much fuel: they are also more subject to pulmonic diseases than the low vallies, where those of an inflammatory diathesis prevail, especially before the towns are thoroughly cultivated.

25. Wednesday. Morn cloudy, the ground slightly covered with snow, and wind N. Day continued cloudy with a moderate fall of snow.

Our party of Surveyors on the Plattsburgh new road will soon find the snow too deep for further operation and be compelled to abandon the work until next season. In the mean time they will find full

428 employment *in the office*, in making
Nov. plans, profiles and calculations from
25. their surveys. The task requires
skill, patience, and steady persever-
ance, not always found in young
men who have not been inured to
hard service and steady effort.
Rail road projects now command
Rail much of the attention of the people
road of this country, and by multiplying
Zeal them, they may be overdone, espe-
cially on *short routes* unconnected with
the great marts or navigable
waters, or extensive interior trade.
Agriculture & the mechanic arts
are the great sources of prosperity,
and rail roads are useful only when
they facilitate these branches of busi-
ness. A further multiplication of them
in Massachusetts, would be folly. If
other communications are necessary
for the accommodation of towns lying
off of the roads, they should consist
of well graded wagon roads.
Enth'y But so enthusiastic are some of
of the people believe that rail

Nov roads may be easily constructed,
25 by cutting down, or tunnelling
through, high mountains, for
the accommodation of a few
towns only. This zeal ~~will~~
~~be~~ will abate when men re-
turn to sober reflection, which
teaches that millions of dollars
are not at the command of a
few, in the interior of the ~~country~~,
who obtain a comfortable sup-
port by their industry & economy.

26 Thursday. Morn cloudy. West
wind: Day fair & cold.
Snow fell yesterday & last night, about
six inches, & is considerably drifted.

Thanks giving day This day, is our annual thanks-
giving by Governor's proclama-
tion, an old custom in Massa-
chusetts, and now coming into
practice in other States out of N.
England— a day which our fore-
fathers held as sacred, but by us,
one of hilarity & good cheer.
When it is true friends meet to-

Novr 26

Reflections

thanksgiving, in the structure of the Universe & the institution of the laws which govern it; in the wonderful provision made for his comfort & support; and in the powers & faculties of his mind, which enable him to apply the laws of nature to his purposes.

"But errs not nature from this gracious end,
"From burning suns when livid deaths descend,
"When earthquakes swallow, or when tempests sweep
"Towns to one grave, whole nations to the deep?
"'No ('tis replied) the first almighty cause
"Acts not by partial, but by general laws."

The rail train

Note. The rail road train has made no passage this day. If thus obstructed by the first fall of snow, may we not look for reiterative instances [illegible] in the course of the winter? In countries where deep snows lie permanent, rail roads are very liable to obstructions in the winter season. Some method of clearing the rails & track [illegible] & the snow from Should have proved effectual.

(In)

In drifting storms deep ra-
26 vines are generally filled to a
considerable depth, and require
much labor to clear them, and hence
they should be avoided if possible.
These are considerations which the
Engineer should have in mind in
selecting his route, especially in
countries liable to deep snows.

27. Friday. Cloudy morning, mild
S.W. Sun fine, but cloudy at night.
The snow now affords pretty good
roads for sleighs, but the mail
from there is not regular in its
arrivals.

~~We~~ hear of no movements of Gen
Taylor since the capture of Monterey, and our
democrats are becoming impatient
at the delay, in not marching to the
halls of the Montezumas, which they had
supposed but a pleasant tour. What
profound ignorance of systematic
[illegible] is seen! But how they arrive at
such knowledge as in their wild
scheme of Government, suited only to
a mobocracy.

432 Saturday. Cloudy more or

Nov. } wind SW. P.M. Sun out
28 } but hazy. — Our [illegible] [illegible]

Our } According to the latest intelli-
army } gence, Gen Taylor lay at Monte-
rey with between 6000 & 7000
men, waiting for a reinforcement
of volunteers from the States,
9 regiments of which, it is said,
are called for by Mr Polk; to
The } serve during the war. Many
Army } of the troops in the camp are said
to be sickly, and some of the regi-
ments poorly but a few fit for
duty. — To invade a country
with a force insufficient to
hold the conquered parts, and
Re- } to continue to advance armies
marks } in want of foresight, and to re-
ly on volunteer corps of militia
[illegible] [illegible] for reinforce-
ments is preposterous. — Gen Tay-
lor's delay at Monterey may af-
ford the Mexicans time to fortify
themselves & assemble a large force.
The ability of Gen [illegible]

invading army in 1777. at Fort
28. Edward, was an instance of this
kind. and his subsequent advance to Stillwater without a certainty of supplies of provisions, is a lesson for commanders—

29) Sunday. Mor. thinly cloudy wind NW. the day fair. with a hazy sky. The day has been mild and the snow melted freely on the south side of buildings. We have a report of a dreadful disaster of a steam boat on Long Island sound, in which from 60 to 80 people were lost. The boat is said to have burnt its boiler in a storm and drove upon Fishers Island. I have not heard the particulars of the disaster. Probably many useful men have been lost; and though we are anxious for a list of names, we shall read it with shuddering sensations and indeed almost consent to its

2°32 **Monday.** Rain with broken
Novr. clouds & W. winds: the day
30 mostly sunny.

Prospects of Boston.

Boston prospects of. This ~~town~~ city has been a place of busy trade since the first settlement of New-England, and it is now becoming a central point of union for the northern and N.W. States of the Union. Connected with Europe by steam ships & with the northern & eastern sections of our country by rail roads, she cannot fail to increase & to flourish. By the western rail road, she now connects with Lake Erie through Albany & Buffalo; and by the Fitchburgh and thence the Burlington rail road with Lake Champlain: and when the road is open from Plattsburgh to Ogdensburgh, her communication will extend to the waters of Lake Ontario, and through the Welland canal to Lake Erie; thence to Lake Huron, Michigan, to the western extremity of Superior, commanding

Nov 30 in some measure, the trade (2,3

of the north and south shores of all these waters. N. York too it is true, will command a portion of this trade by the western canal & the Hudson. But Boston seems to command the trade from Europe more fully ~~than~~ than the City of N. York, probably from a greater spirit of enterprise of the former over the latter. Under these circumstances Boston must continue to grow, and will form an extended mass of buildings on all sides of her bay. and may ultimately rival N York in magnitude. One cause of this flourishing condition of Boston, no doubt, results from the correctness of her political principles, and her superior police. Here the rights of her citizens are regarded & property protected by wholesome laws, and her citizens are left free from unruly phrenzies which inundate the city of N. York. In short, if ever there [illegible] cities we [illegible] Boston is the place

Novr 30. Here arts & sciences flourish, republicanism is found practicable, and quiet men are esteemed, notwithstanding the effects of slavery upon the intellect, the eyes to a monotony

"Renown'd in arms, in peace humane,
"No shame, nor faction shall,
[illegible] tarnish thy sway;
"While all the virtues [illegible] thy reign,
"And subject elements obey."

December

1. Tuesday Morn. fair — wind W.

Loss of the Steam Boat Atlantic.

We have some of the particulars of the dreadful disaster on the Sound on Sunday last. The Steam-Boat Atlantic, sailed from Norwich for New York during the storm of Wednesday evening the 25th and when about 2 miles below New London light (about 12 o'clock at night) burst her steam chest, which rendered it necessary to cast anchor;

Dur lost from the vicinity of the
1. gale & heavy sea; the chains broke & parted
her cable & became utterly
unmanageable. She drifted about
in sight of New London along
the day (Thursday) but got
no aid from the nearest port
for her relief, in consequence of the
heavy swell. She then was tossed
to float at the mercy of the mer-
-cy of the winds & waves until about 4½
o'clock Friday morning, when
she drifted upon the rocks of
Fishers island, some 10 or 12 miles
from New London; and went
to pieces in about 5 minutes. Of
about 80 passengers, only about
20 were saved. During Thursday
a steam boat was sent from New-
ark for the relief of the unfortunate
wreck, but the sea was so rough
that the relieving boat could
give no aid. The names of the
lost are not given; excepting the
master of the boat Capt Dustan

438 Decr 1 It is said that the Citizens of New London are severely blamed for not rendering more efficient aid.

Remarks} Mem. The grand error was in leaving the harbor of N. London in the evening, during a storm. Stated times of departure should always be regulated by circumstances. The catastrophe, it is hoped, will produce more caution. But in this "go ahead" age caution is becoming an obsolete term.

Mexico. By the last accounts from Monterey, we learn that Santa Anna is at San Luis Potosi with 12,000 men, and constantly receiving reinforcements and determined to make a vigorous defence of his country, against an invading army. Mr Polk of course finds it necessary to increase our army, and Gen. Scott has been ordered to Mexico to take the command of the United States army.

Decr 1. It remains to be seen whether twenty millions of people can be so easily conquered as we have supposed. At any rate once conquer that republic it will be at an expense little dreamed of by those who plunged us into it, nor without more hard fighting. However the war may terminate, it will add nothing to our honor in the eyes of Europe; but evince that a government claiming to be based on the rights of the people, may be as unjust as that of a despot who feels power & forgets right. The only difference is, the despot may be the ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] of the corruption, while in a republic a majority may partake of the same turpitude.

2. Wednesday ~~Morn~~ cloudy-~~wind~~ N.E. and a fall of snow; day continued cloudy & P.M. some rain fell, the hills enveloped by fog.

Thursday. Morn cloudy, wind

Dec'r 3d. N.E: Sun appeared about 11 o'clock A.M. — the remainder fair.

Gen. Scott's appointment

The appointment of Gen. Scott to the command of our army in Mexico, probably was dictated by the circumstances of the army at this time. The Chiefs of Brigade under Gen. Taylor are inexperienced in the tented field, and by a spirit of emulation they may be disposed to rush into the midst of a battle, which more prudent modes of attack would be equally, if not more successful, and less loss of lives.

To moderate this rash impetuosity, and to introduce more systematic movements, the appointment of Gen. Scott may be necessary. This officer, in the Madison war of 1812, had acquired a name for bravery in

His [illegible] [illegible]

Decr. battles, but as believed at the
3. time, rather of a chivalrous char-
acter, more remarkable for in-
dividual exploits, than effectual
impressions on an enemy, by com-
bined movement & regulated obedi-
ence. But a thirty years of peace
has given time for reflection and
the acquirement of strategic rules,
and the General is probably now com-
petent to the command of a army.

Gen. Winfield Scott was born
tis
rth } near Petersburg in Virginia, June
13th 1785 and is now about 61.
years of age. In 1808 he was
appointed captain of artillery, in
which capacity, he served until
the declaration of the war of 1812,
ind when he was promoted to the rank
ffi of Lt. Col. in the 2nd regiment of artillery,
s and was ordered to Buffalo in the
State of N. York. From that time to
the close of the war, he was in active
service & shared in several engagements

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*Compilation Messenger Dec 17th 18

1846 received the appointment of Colonel
Dec. 3. Brigadier Gen. and Maj. Gen. by brevet. Since ~~the~~ same he has been retained in command, and on ~~the~~
Re- death of Major Gen. Macomb was placed
marks at the head of our army. — The Gen. may never find an opportunity to scour off the rust of a thirty years peace, and we regret that his skill is not to be tested by a justifiable war, honorable to the country and himself.

Whatever may be the opinion of Gen. Scott on the justice and necessity of the war, we know not, but his residence at Washington during the struggle would have ill comported with his station of commander in chief.

In the conduct of Mr Polk's army
Gen. of Invasion Gen. Taylor has proved him-
Tay- self a fighting General, and for any
lor thing we know, he may be compe-
tent to the command of numerous force. But if known a sickly: imp

Dec. 3. campaign, a mutinous disposition of his volunteers, Gen. Taylor has been retarded in his progress, and thoroughly excited the impatience of restless clamourers, he may be willing ~~to withdraw~~ to relinquish the chief command to Gen. Scott, who, however successful in his operations, will but conquer a weak nation, incapable of defending herself against rapacity & injustice, and whose fate will excite the commiseration of other nations. And far be from me, or my friends, the honor of such a conquest.

4 Friday. A Morn fair, moonlight then clouds; warm N.W. wind; the day alternately fair & cloudy.

Since the contract of the rail road company to carry the mail, it has been irregular in its arrival, and of course our intelligence by the papers is tardy. It is hoped we shall not be submitted long to this difficulty. The

44 Decr 4. The value of a mail depends much upon its punctuality, as well as its rapidity.

Steam boat catastro phe. In the Amherst Express we find some particulars of the loss of the Atlantic Steam Boat at Fishers Island in Long Island Sound. The whole number of persons on board is stated to be from 100 to 110, and that 45 were lost; but the accounts are yet imperfect.

Fore sight of 2 Gentlemen Daniel Webster & Judge Kent were passengers from Boston as far as Norwich, where they left, not liking to embark in the Steamer a wise decision, when they could proceed by land, and a proof of superior foresight in great minds. The Boat left Allen's point about 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, and such was the violence of the gale, that she [illegible] found great difficulty in landing at New-London. Ought she then to have left that port in such a gale? The rule never to risk much for little seems to have been disregarded. The rule is a common one

one ought never to be forgotten;
4. but men, by a series of mishaps, become careless, and sooner or later, suffer for the consequences. An ancient sage once said "he had always regretted that he had gone to any place by water, when he might have proceeded by land". And I am not far from his opinion.

5- Saturday: Clear, fair and N, followed by a fine day.

Another Steam Boat disaster.

Another Steam Boat disaster occurred on the 21st of November on the Mississippi about 7 miles below Natchez. The steam boat Sultana bound down the river came in contact with the Maria, bound up, and by the violence of the shock, broke the connection pipe of the latter, by which 25 or 30 deck passengers were scalded, and the boat sinking, ~~about~~ the ~~same time~~ drowned. Will it still be said Steam boats are safe conveyances? Such collisions in the day time, cannot happen but from carelessness, and the

44e commander who commits it, de-
Decr serves prompt punishment.
5. Steam vessels at the best, are liable to
Re- sudden accidents, to which ought
marks not to be added those of carelessness.
In Sea coast & Lake navigation
by steam vessels, some scheme
is wanting by which the vessel
may be worked by sails
an when the steam machinery
improve- is damaged; and ~~[illegible] the~~
ment the steamers from Liverpool
sug- to Boston have this provision,
gested and are converted to wind
vessels, when circumstances re-
quire it. Would it not be
well to furnish at least one mast
to our [illegible] Steamers, for Sea coast &
Lake navigation, with a sail
ready to be rigged to the mast.
The mast might be short like
a jury mast, and it would not
much retard the celerity of the
vessel, even when sailing against
the wind.
Had the unfortunate Steamer at
Lexington, been thus prepared, it might

Decr might she not have made the
5 harbor of Stonington, or Newport,
with safety; instead of floating
30 hours, at the mercy of the wind
& waves, and then dashing upon
the rocks at Fisher's island, with
the loss of 45 or 50 men. & the vessel.
But such is the present rage for
celerity that the inconsiderate
will prefer the swiftest vessel, regardless of consequences. To such
precautions are vain, and they
must be left to to suffer from their
folly and stupidity.

6 Sunday. Morn fair & wind N.
The day fine.
The papers are full of the incidents
of the loss of the Atlantic steamer;
the scene was terrifying and
wrought to great excitement. Capt Dustan, it seems to be generally thought,
not to have sailed from N. London
in such a storm. But he had great
confidence in strength of his vessel
& may have been urged ~~on~~ by his
passengers, who were but ill able
to judge of the danger of the trip. But

448; a wise, prudent, and firm command:
Decr or will not be thus dictated,
6 by a weak, inconsiderate multitude who plunge headlong into difficulties, which a little foresight would have avoided. This "go a head" course seems to be the order of the day, and the prudent man is supposed to lack enterprise.

7. *Monday.* Morn fair & cold. Wind N. day partially cloudy & cold. This day Congress commences a session at Washington, and we are now to see the collected *wisdom* of the nation, and from Mr Polk we look for details of his *glorious* conquests in Mexico and of the *flourishing* state of the Treasury. He may also notice the progress of democratic liberty, and recommend new annexations of sections of Mexico to our Union. But whatever may be the tenor of his message those who look to it for wise measures, will be disappointed.
[illegible] of an unfair [illegible]

ler affords no wholesome matter.

7 That a majority of Congress will provide means for prosecuting the war is not doubted, unless a resort to direct taxation is found necessary, in which case the people will begin to look to the ballot boxes, and the members are sensitive to such views. The recent call of Mr Polk for a regiment of volunteers from this State may be to test the popularity of the war here, but little appears to warrant a compliance with the request; and our warm democrats seem to be more ready to fight at the ballot boxes, than in the fields of Mexico. Why the other states of New England are not included in the call, we have yet to learn.

The war in which we are engaged through the illegal strides of Mr Polk, is now stripped of its disguise and appears in its true dress. It began with injustice and is now prosecuted for conquest, and if the people of these states, are ready to support it they have fallen to a lower degree of degradation than we had anticipated.

450 If we overrun and conquer Mex-
Decr ico, let it be remembered that it was a
7: crime of our republic against ~~was~~ a-
ther, unable to defend her rights;
and that the future historian will
give it to the world in terms
which will not redound to the
honour or honesty of the administra-
tion who enacted and basely
prosecuted it, against justice and
right. And will not civilized
nations mark this character of
our nation, which talks so
much of the rights of man, and
plunders them, for the gratifica-
tion of a base ambition & cupidity.
What a fall from the rank we
held under Washington & his co-
patriots! Could the sage rise
from his tomb and behold
the abuse of the liberties he left
us, what emotions of anguish would
swell in his bosom! And, though
in the latter part of his admin-
istration, and that of John Adams,
he witnessed the incipient approach-
es of corrupting principles fatal
to the happiness of the people, he
could

Decr have formed no adequate con-
7. ception of the extent they would
be carried at this time, when
quite a good men are held as
enemies to their country and
unworthy of public trust, ~~whil~~
obscure men of unknown tal-
ents are raised to the highest ~~stations~~
by a party, a portion of ~~whom~~
are about as well qualified to
judge of political science, as they
are of the principles of the higher
Geometry. While the friends
of order lament this state of things,
they do not despair of the salva-
tion of the republic, believing
that as information & morals
are diffused through the country,
the people will return to good
sense, and prefer domestic happi-
ness and quiet, to anarchy & con-
fusion.

8. Tuesday. Morn cloudy with fog
& N winds. Last night considerable
rain fell. The day continued
cloudy & foggy with some rain
and moderate air.

4th Accident Steamer wrecked
Decr on our coast.

The Steam vessel North America left St Johns, New Brunswick, on the 25th ult. for Boston via East-Port, and the same night during a gale, burst her steam pipe and dragged her anchors and ran ashore on Long Island (Mount Desert) The vessel and passengers, about 60, got safe to land except [illegible]; the vessel lost. The accident of the machinery was similar to that of the Atlantic in Long Island Sound, and had the vessel struck the ground, or rocks, at some distance from the shore the accident might have been as fatal. Steam-Boats were first constructed for river navigation, and the principal object was to give them velocity, and in case the derangement of the machinery, and could be repaired from the adjacent shores when a storm. But for steam vessels for navigating [illegible] when storms often [illegible] a different construction is

Dec & obviously necessary, and to rely
8 on steam alone is unsafe. These
vessels should be provided with
masts and sails to be used in
case of accidents in the steam machi
nery, as we have suggested in page
444. Without some contrivance
of this kind sea vessels are un
safe and no prudent man will
risk himself on board. The late
accidents ought to turn the public
attention to the subject.

9 Wednesday. Warm cloudy, wind N.
and rain last night - clear before
noon & continued fair
The snow is now much reduced
and the roads nearly bare.

Our Democratic papers call upon
their democratic friends to turn
out and fill the ranks of the Regiment
called for by Mr Polk, from this State,
but as yet, little zeal is shown
among them to partake of the glory
of the war in Mexico. No! they
are better fitted to carouse at home
and fight their battles at the ballot
boxes, where there is no danger of
broken bones. Nor are the Neutrals

Decr. of this sort of tactics unwil-
ling that their faithful soldiers
9: should remain in their ranks
for home-service, — since Gen. Tay-
lor's beetles and miasm mala-
ria are rather thinning to their
ranks, already diminishing by
desertion from the State troops.

10 Thursday. Fair morn, wind
N.E. At noon the heavens
completely covered with clouds;
this change took place in a short
space of time, perhaps from a
sudden condensation of the aqueous
vapour in the atmosphere, by a
descent of cold air from the higher
regions. Such changes, I think, may
then occur. Since sudden snows
soon follow.

The day continued cloudy —
Arrival of friends. Elizabeth arrived from Halifax
with her brother, and informs
that Arthur will be home next
week from Plattsburgh. Our [illegible] inspired
- tiss. ~~faculty~~ heavenly ~~Miss~~
by the force of a true, has only
[illegible] his society a same eloque-

Dec. Friday. Morn cloudy, wind
11 N.E. & last night several inches of
snow fell. Wind soon veered
Wintry to W. at noon fair, or broken
spect clouds. The surface again pre-
sents a winter aspect and we
close about our stoves to keep up
a due degree of heat; but to me
the winter is far from an agree-
able season, while the young
are able to bear it without
much inconvenience.

12. Saturday. Morn fair, wind
N. and fair & cold day.
President Polk's call on Mass-
achusetts for a regiment of volunteers
to serve in Mexico during the
war, finds but few respondents.
Capt. Edward Webster however
seems to be ready to embrace this
opportunity to acquire military
fame. In a Boston paper we no-
tice an advertisement inviting men
to call at his office & fill up his
company. Would it not be wise
in this Gentleman, to fill some

459 honours of the entire field
Dec'r before he puts on the epaulette
12 His taste for military service
Capt may have been created by
Webs- beholding the militia drums to
ter a barrel of powder on Boston
Common, not exactly suited
to the banks of the Rio Grande
or the batteries of Monterey
under Gen. Taylor's school of
discipline, in which strict
subordination & implicit obedi-
ence of orders are essential ingre-
dients, rarely found in our
who elect their officers.

But should this N. England
regiment be filled up, and
organized for service according
to the call of President Polk, who
will present fairer claims
to a pair of epaulettes than our
patriotic Captain, whose zeal
we can not disparage to depreciate.
For could we know the Captain
may possess the necessary talents of

Dest. Conduct, and wants only opportunity to display his genius.
12.
But we doubt whether he has chosen the most direct path to military fame by mustering a militia corps for Mr Polks war of aggression & conquest; and with Washington we believe "that no man who regards order, regularity or economy, or who has any regard for his own honor, character, or peace of mind, will risk them on this spot" — See his official letters to Congress, which we recommend for Capt Webster's careful perusal.

13 Sunday - Morn fair, wind NW & cold; the continued much the same throughout. Sleighing is very good. We now begin to experience cold nights and our rivers will soon be bridged with ice.

Southern reports are now inviting, but we have little inclination for volunteering in Mr Polks war of rapacity in Mexico; we leave that honor to Capt. Webster and

458 Monday. Morn fair, wind NW
Decr and cold air; the day fine &
14

Mr Polk's mess sug

We have, in the papers, the long message of President Polk, to Congress in which he labors to prove the necessity of the war on our part. It reminds me of the plea of a sophistical lawyer to a jury in the defense of a guilty client, that would make an impression on the audience of the innocence of the culprit, until the opposite plea is made. The causes of the war need no elaborate investigation; they are found in a nutshell.

Reas marchi on

The vacillating Vice-President Tyler, having annexed Texas to our Union, Mr Polk was elected to complete the plan projected by democracy.

A vast extent of sparsely settled country lying west of Texas, must be annexed to the Union to partake of the *blessings* of *democratic* liberty & southern slavery! To

459

Dec. 14. To effect this, the following schemes were adopted

1st Mr Polk t. send a force to the Nueces t. protect the Texans, under the name of an army of "observation". [illegible]

Finding no opposition from the Mexicans, and that a war was not likely to ensue from this occupancy, Mr Polk adopted a

2. 2d Scheme, more certain in its result. Gen. Taylor then at the head of the army, of about 2.000, was ordered t. invade the disputed territory and advance about 100 miles to the left bank of the Rio Grande and to take up a position opposite t. the Mexican army on the right bank. This produced the desired object. The Mexicans crossed the river and at length fought the battles of the 8th & 9th of May, were defeated, & recrossed the River. These movements were communicated to Congress, with a demand for men & means to carry on the war, which had thus been produced. Congress took the bait, granted Mr Polk 50.000 volunteers & 10 or 12 millions of dollars t. maintain the contest

460. Gen. Taylor soon crossed the river, drove
Decr back the Mexicans and took poss-
14. of several of their dependent towns;
and strong hopes were entertained that
he would soon advance & occupy
the Halls of Montezuma.

3^d. } 3^d Scheme. Col. Kearney, created a
Brigadier General, was ordered to assem-
ble a force on the frontier of Missouri,
advance through the wild country
to Santa Fee, occupy that & the neigh-
boring country. This being accom-
plished, a

4th } 4th Scheme was adopted. The inhab-
itants were to be conciliated and
prepared for a democratic govern-
ment. The volunteer printers from
N. Orleans established printing presses
to preach up the sweets of demo-
cratic liberty, as taught in the United
States; and civil governments were
formed to facilitate annexations
of new States to our Union. In the mean
time a force was assembled at
the City of New-York, to be sent
round Cape ~~Horn~~ to take posses-
sion of Upper California. These troops

Dur^r conquest of provinces, mechanics &c.
4. furnished with their implements, were to revolutionize and take possession of the country at the close of the war and thus the declared plan of Mr Polk for excluding all nations from holding possessions in N America, was to be effected, excepting the British provinces, which is to be completed in another war.

5.} 5th Scheme, now in operation. our army to be uniformed, to take the place of the volunteers whose term of service will soon expire, ~~then~~ southern Mexico to be reduced to vassalage, and Mr Polk to conquer a peace, which he cannot readily do by negociation on equitable grounds. But at any rate, the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grand, or further south, to be our southern boundary. Mr Polk may multiply words on the cause of the war, and attempt to place the Mexicans in fault; but all enlightened men will know the baseness of the whole before continuing

Dec. 14 But he must recollect that when the people *feel* the expense of his plans, they will resort to the ballot-boxes to check the base schemes to which he has resorted to gratify his party:

The Motto} who have adopted the motto of a Roman Senator: *Delenda est Carthage*!

15 *Tuesday*. Morn thinly cloudy, wind N.E. and cold air: day generally fair.

I have commenced a *reconnosance* of the *Exploring Expedition*

Exploring Expedition} in the years 1838, 1839-1840, 1841 & 1842 - By Charles Wilkes U.S.N. commander of the Expedition, in 5 vols Royal 8vo, & an atlas - a superb edition published by Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia 1845.

The squadron under the command of Lt Wilkes consisted of the *Peacock*, a sloop of war, of 650 tons; the Vincennes, a sloop of war 780 tons; the *Porpoise*, gun: brig, 230 tons; two tenders, the

d S. Sea Gull & flying fish, 110 & 96 tons;
15 a store ship, the Relief, newly built.
A Corps of Scientific Gentlemen
Scien. accompanied the Expedition. Viz:
tific Mr Hale, Phylologist; — Mr Pickering
Corps & Peale, Naturalists; Mr Couthouy,
Conchologist; Mr Dana, Mineralo-
gist; Mr Rich, Botanist; Mr Drayton
& Mr Agate, Draughtsmen; Mr Brack-
enridge, Horticulturist.

The Squadron sailed from Hampton
Roads, in Chesapeake Bay, August
18th 1838, and steered for the island
Madeira where he arrived Sept. 16th.
ram thence to Rio Janeiro, South Ameri-
e of ca and southerly to the straits of
the Le Maire, through which he en-
yage tered the Pacific Ocean; thence north-
erly to Valparaiso, in Chili, and after-
wards to Callao, in Peru, whence the squadron
sailed for Tahiti, where it arrived
at Matavai. Bay, about the 10th of Septr.
This with an appendix concludes
the 1st Vol.

During the voyage the Squadron
touched at numerous islands, & in some in-
stances excursions were made into the interior

1864 Dec. 14 **Wednesday.** Morn fair & cold and wind N.; our river frozen over in various places. Day continued fair.

Improvement in navigation

In perusing the Exploring Expedition by Lt. Wilkes we perceive a striking difference between the art of Navigation since the time of Lord Anson 100 years ago. The multiplication of precise and accurate instruments, particularly of chronometers and the application of lunar distances have enabled the navigator to traverse the ocean, with almost as much certainty as we travel by land; and dead reckoning is resorted to only when the heavens are clouded. In the Pacific such Islands as were said to have been discovered by former navigators were often diligently sought for by the squadron without success, and indeed in some instances, their location were passed over by the squadron. The is explained from the inaccuracy of the former methods of determining position at sea or perhaps from mistaking fog banks for islands: The navigating instruments used by the vessels, were constructed in Europe by the best artists, and were far superior to any of the kind made in this country. On Anson's day the Sextant had hardly been brought into use, and the lunar method of determining Longitude, was, I believe, unknown, or not reduced to practice: and of course dead reckoning was the only reliance. The calculation of the nautical almanac in England, has also afforded great aid to navigators. Thus we see that the science of all countries tend to the welfare & happiness of man; and that he who would retard its progress over the world, is an enemy to civilization, and is misplaced among the human race.

In this point of view, how despicable

appears

[illegible] appear the wars of ambition which have prevailed in the world? not excepting the one in which we are now engaged for the conquest of a neighboring republic, which has rights to protect as well as ourselves.

In the progress of science and its attendant arts, civilized nations should learn that wars are obstructions to the progress of all useful improvement, and that they may be avoided by a strict adherence to justice, and the benevolent feelings due from man to man, in one or other countries. Prejudices of one country against another are the fruits of limited views common to the uninformed, and should be discarded as the bane of happiness.

Reflections

17 Thursday Morn cloudy, cold and wind N.E.; the day continued cloudy & snow fell at night.

Mass. volunteers

Massachusetts volunteers. An order has been received from the war department, directing the volun-

Decr volunteer companies of this
17 State, to be mustered into the service
of the U. States, as fast as each
company shall be reported ready.
Capt Webster will now find op-
portunity to show the extent of
his zeal and military genius in
the humane war of invasion, in
Mexico; and we are highly pleased
that he is thus to be gratified.
Having with fires of Lexington and
Bunkerhill, he, and his men, cannot
fail of acquiring glory on the plains
& hills of Mexico; and we hope
they may escape the diseases of a
tropical region, and the bullets of
the Mexicans, in so "just a cause"
~~as~~ the defense of their country
against an invading army.

Capt Webster was

Capt Webster, we are informed,
is a son of the great Dan-
iel Webster, & of course concluded
he has not genius to comprehend the
good and wise institutions. But that he
has chosen the profession of arms, at

1168 the advice of his father, we
Dec. am not ready to believe, espe-
17. cially in a war so unjust as that
we have waged against Mexico.
for the base purpose of conquest
of the territory of a sister re-
public.

Other Gentlemen of Boston, we
Other volunteers are informed, are now attempting
to enlist companies for the Mexi-
can war, with expectations of
decorating their shoulders
with, at least, one epaulette —
All the gentlemen thus engaged
Remarks may be respectable in civil life;
but without some sort of appren-
ticeship, must be incompetent judg-
es of the military professions.
We would not however require that
they should have become familiar
with the military clamour on Boston
Common, nor with the art of rigging
out their fellow citizens in buckram
and stuffed coats, nor with ele-
gant dinners, toasts, and table speech-
es, at superb hotels ~~that~~ having no af-
finity with the duties of soldiers.
Young gentlemen who have been

Decr habituated to these puerilities, 1809
17. generally imbibe false notions of
the military profession.
A General officer, in a letter to
30 offi his son who was entering upon a
uni military life, says: "There is no pro
all fession which requires more genius
ver some talent; more strength of mind
as well as of body; that calls for great
er self-denial; for a stricter government
over the passions; for closer application;
for more ready obedience; or for more
rigid attention to your general con
duct." — He adds: "These representa
tions will surprise you, if you have
hitherto listened only to those head-
strong and misguided young offi
cers, who fancy their uniform is
alone sufficient to attract respect;
that their commissions will serve
them instead of knowledge, talents
and virtue; and that bravery is
all that is requisite in fulfilling
the duties of their professions" —
How few among our young men
temper their zeal for military employ-
ment, by such considerations; the late

470 In the introduction to my Cavalry
Dec. Discipline, I have expressed my
17. ideas of the qualifications of young
officers, which I intend to com-
mend to their attention, with absence of
bitter
18. Feeling. Wind steady from N;
and last night considerable snow
fell; the day continued cloudy
but the sun in some degree visible.
Towards night some snow
fell.

We are looking anxiously for
details of the proceedings of Con-
gress, with the hope that some
steps will be taken to end the war
with Mexico; but as Mr Polk
is bound to satisfy his party,
it doubtful whether he will
agree on terms that will be
fair and equitable. All of
the northern Mexico, we
have no doubt, will be severed
from that republic & annexed
to our union; and whether the
[illegible] republic
will purge the
of [illegible] is to be seen.

Detail
of Con-
gress.
uant
ng

Decr] Should we continue our conqt.
18. and finally prostrate Mexico, the nations of Europe will see something of the interest of our continent and shape their course to their own welfare.

If Mexico submits to our encroachments, why not Guatemala and the whole of the European possessions in North America?

The new mode of conquest by annexation, is truly a convenient one. When the people of a neighboring country shall resolve to join our Union, Congress has only to pass a law for that purpose, and send an army of "observation" to its outer boundary and it is accomplished. Buonaparte's scheme of conquest, was not so effectual.

The British Provinces in America may next be submitted to the process.

19 Saturday. Morn clear, wind S.W. and then cloudy part of the day.

472 Another week has now elapsed
Decr without bringing us any im-
19. portant movements of our Army
in Mexico. Gen Taylors head
Taylor's quarters are still at Monterey
head where he is waiting for rein-
quarters forcements of Mr. Polks volun-
teers, part of which are
not yet enlisted. What new
plans will be devised by Gen
Scott when he arrives and
Gen. assumes the command, is un-
Scott known: His reputation
tion will not incline him to
advance with undisciplined
volunteers under new officers
who have to learn the first
lessons of the camp and whose
zeal for service is their only qua
lification.

Mr Polk may now have learned
that his 50.000 volunteers are not
quite so ready for actual service
as he and his party had supposed
and that men must be supplied

Decr 19) preparation, as well arms & 473
ammunition; and also that to conquer a country of 7 or 8 millions of inhabitants, is not an easy task. Gen Scott was aware of this at the commencement of the war, and risked his military reputation in the eye of wild democracy, when he advised due preparation, & delay until the hot season had past.

Gen Scott's operations will probably now become more systematic, and his battles more strategical but he may find the want of regular troops, before he reaches the "Halls of Montezuma", and possibly a Termo Pylas in his way.

Gen. Taylor has conducted his campaign with ordinary skill, and has fought his enemy with intrepidity; but more caution may be found necessary to insure success.

The war, it is hoped, will soon be closed on equitable terms, and our wise democracy taught that peace is essential for the prosperity of our country.

474 Sunday. Cloudy morn, wind

Dec. 20. W.; Sun occasionally out throughout the day; air cold

21 Monday. Morn cloudy, wind SW. until the sun out part of the day.

Winter solstice — The Sun has now reached the tropic of Capricorn, or greatest south declination = 23°.27'; amplitude 32°.41. (nearly.) These quantities are slowly diminishing, and hence it would appear, that the obliquity of the ecliptic must become nothing in the course of time, and a perpetual spring take place on the earth.

Obliquity of the ecliptic decreasing. — But our profound astronomers say, a time will come when this motion, growing less and less, will at length entirely cease, and the obliquity of the ecliptic will appear constant; after which the displacement will commence in the opposite direction. The ecliptic will then gradually diverge from the equator by the same degrees according to which it before approached;

Dec.r 21

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nomy
nothing

and these alternate states will constitute an endless oscillation, comprehended within certain fixed limits; and that the plane of the ecliptic never will coincide with the plane of the equator.

To demonstrate this position requires an extensive knowledge of astronomy possessed but by a few. The subject is treated of in Farrar's Biot's astronomy under the head of Progressive Diminution of the obliquity of the Ecliptic, page 111; and also in other works on mathematical astronomy, particularly in those of Lagrange and Laplace, who claim to have demonstrated the stability of the Solar system: or in other words, "that the planetary system will only oscillate about a mean state, and will never deviate from it, except by a very small quantity."

Ne As we extend our views into the more complete elements of Astronomy, we

1847. since none can further proof
Decr that a designing, infinitely wise
21. and powerful agent exists,
who contrived and put in motion the various bodies of the universe, and superintends the wonderful machine; and whether it is to continue for a time and then run down, as we say of a clock, or to continue eternally without derangement, we know not; but in either case the existence of this Great agent is indubitably established. But we are informed that Laplace and many other mathematical philosophers in France, deny this conclusion. In Whewell's Astronomy and General Physics (Book 3d Chapters 3. 5. & 6th) an attempt is made to explain this tendency of great minds. of deductive habits & deep in mathematics.

Proof of a great Agent

22. Tuesday. Morn. cloudy; wind N. — P.M. snow fell

The cost of the Connecticut River Rail road from Springfield to Greenfield, including the Chicopee branch, and the

Rail road

Decr engines, cars & depots and
22. furniture, is estimated at about
Cost of the [illegible] one million of dollars. $650.000 of which, has been subscribed and paid in. About one half of the balance has been borrowed, and it is proposed to provide for the other half, by issuing new stock.

Greenfield Gazette & Courier

may be less. In this estimate is included the construction of th~~ese~~ expensive bridges ~~one~~ at Willimansett, the other at Cheapside in Deerfield. other Will the ~~expense~~ ~~other~~ road afford an income after paying since the cost of operation and the repairs? I think it, at least, doubtful. Perhaps we have paid too dear for the whistle.

That the road might have been built at much less expense, is obvious to all who are acquainted with the route first proposed through this town, & the numerous deep ravines avoided.

The present rage for rail-roads, especially on short routes, will be of short duration; and our farmers will find that agriculture is their proper em-
There

478 Decr 22

Those roads connecting com[illegible] great trading marts ~~are~~ important, and may be maintained; but short routes for accommodating a few interior towns are inadmissible in the scale of economy, and if constructed, must fail of success.

onsid
ration
on

A direct road from Boston to Albany to connect with the western road in the State of N York, and another ~~from the former~~ same, by Fitchburg, Burlington, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburgh, are all that are important for accommodating the western & Northwestern trade.

The
Impo
ed di
rect
route

The project of a direct road from Boston to New Haven, and from the latter to N ~~york City~~ is clearly idle, since a road is already constructed via Springfield; and the saving of distance by that route is of little consideration.

The passage from Boston to New york City is now sufficiently rapid for all purposes, and from its circu[illegible] from a circuit route, it ~~accom~~ [illegible]dates more of the interior trading stations, which is a consideration to be ~~regarded~~ in the choice of road road ~~routes~~.

~~A direct~~ road from Boston to New Ha

Decr 22. New Haven will put through no great trading stations, but it would be injurious to others: nor in oper-

mne
pany}

ation, and by dividing the travel & transportation of goods, may be ruinous to the whole, and in my firm, none sufficiently supported, as was the case with the turnpike roads in our country. Let us then avoid a similar error in rail roads, and give aid to the great arteries which alone are but required being laid to important Points in the interior of the country. The road from Boston to Albany, is of the first importance to the former city, and since its construction at great expense, let us avail ourselves of it, in all cases where we would connect a route to the city of New-York; and the route by Springfield, Hartford & New-Haven, answers all the purposes of a direct route, and more extensively accommodates important stations in the interior of the country. A departure from these considerations will be neither wise nor economical.

480 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind N.—
Decr. but soon veered to W.—the day
23. fair & pleasant for the Season;
but after sun set the air became very cold. From this time to the close of February we may look for cold weather though the suns declination south, will be on the decrease, which must be accounted for from the fact, that the effect does not immediately follow the cause, as we see verified at the Autumnal and vernal equinox when the sun's altitude is equal.

The remark on the Season

Now is the time for Mr. Polk to push his volunteers into south Mexico. for the humane purpose of conquest; but it appears they are not ready for the marching, But the Massachusetts regiment will be ready as soon as the soldiers can be enlisted from Utopia, and Gen. Scott will exchange them by the time the sun reaches the tropic of cancer. We are indeed a peace full Christian nation, ready at all times for war

Mr. Polk's time for conquest

Decr 24 Thursday. Fair morn, wind N. and air cold. P.M. cloudy.

Cold day

This day is said to be the coldest we have had this season, but as I have no thermometer at hand I am not able to determine the fact. This instrument is now in general use, but as it is often improperly exposed to the air, and not at the same time of the day, I do not rely on the results as given at different places; and another cause of inaccuracy may be attributed to want of perfection in the construction; and we seldom find two of them giving the same results.

ther mo ntr

For several years I kept a registry of the thermometer attached to the case of a barometer, but I found it to vary considerably from a distant one, and gave up the observations. I have not however lost confidence in thermometers if it be well made, properly exposed and carefully observed. Perhaps it is the best instrument contrived for its intended purposes, though liable to errors.

1842 Friday. Morn cloudy; wind SW;
Novr and day cloudy ~~and~~ and less
25. cold with some scattered snow.

Second Vol. of the Exploring Expedition. This contains the voyage from Tahiti through various Groups in the Southern ocean to Sidney in New-South Wales; and thence to the Antarctic Continent; thence back to Sidney; thence to New Zealand to explore that land, which with an appendix closes the vol.

Exploring Exped. Vol 2d.

The coast of the New-Continent extends from east to west, and is so embarrassed with icebergs and broken masses, that the navigation is dangerous, and none of the ships were able to make a landing. The Peacock suffering severely, and was nearly being lost and she returned to Sidney before the rest of the Squadron to refit. The coast of the New Continent was traced for about 59 degrees of Longitude, nearly ~~upon~~ the Antarctic circle. This continent is therefore established beyond a doubt.

The new Continent

Dec 25 The Vol. includes a pretty full description of Tahiti, New South Wales, and New Zealand, where civilization has been planted since the voyages of Capt. Cook.

New South Wales &c.

The British settlement in New South Wales and Van Dieman's lan have become respectable, and present a civilized people, where a short time since, nothing but rude savages were found; and efforts have been made to carry civilization into New Zealand, and an English acting Governor resides there. For history of New S. Wales, see Chap. 27th

26 Saturday. Fair morn, - wind NW. and the day clear.

Recent accounts from our army in Mexico represent it in a deranged state - the volunteers, being insubordinate and are inclined to dictate the plans of the commander. Every military man of judgement must have foreseen this state of things. An army of volunteer corps who elect their officers is but a disorderly mob. and no

1814 experienced scientific officers, will
Decr. readily consent to be placed at their
26. head. Undisciplined men, confi
dent of success, may be led into ac
tion & even fight desperately, for the
Re first time, but engage in a second
marks trial: ~~once the moment~~ they be
on mi come themselves inferior to their ene
litia my: they will fall into confu
sion and ~~retreat~~ in spite of their
officers. By this time Gen. Tay
lor must have learned their character
and no ~~doubt would readily~~ employ
them for regular troops: nor will
he fancy ~~militia~~ corps raised for the
war, until ~~more~~ experienced
After a few months service in
the field, our Massachusetts regiments
if filled up, will prove [illegible]; that
zeal but an empty puff; that
soldiers are not made in a holiday spor
and that the love of home is not
to be quenched by absence
I would not throw a dam
on ~~even~~ the military spirit
in a just and necessary war;
for

& for the defence of our country; but war in all cases is an evil and an alternative, and should if possible, be avoided. That Mr Polk has plunged us into an unnecessary contest with Mexico, is too obvious to need proof. But if Congress support him in the war by legal enactment, all must share in the defence of the country. ~~but~~ does patriotism require voluntary aid when we believe the war unjust? This would be as erroneous as ~~the~~ the doctrine that Kings can do no wrong, and our rights at the ballot boxes prostrated. This aid is not the duty of a free people, governed by constitutions of their own framing.

2d and the war

That the war will incur a tremendous debt upon the nation, and re[illegible] the progress of improvement, is undeniable, and future generations may lament our folly. Mexico may be compelled to submit to our exactions; she may become our vassal, but what will ~~the~~ the civilized nations of the world say of our injustice!

1846 Decr 27 Sunday: Morn cloudy, wind SW, same day continued cloudy and the air more moderate than it has been for several days past; the snow 2 to 3 inches in depth.

28 Monday. Cloudy morn, wind SW., the day fair at Noon & then cloudy.

Death of Mrs Williams

This morning we heard of the Death of Mrs Abiramah Williams, widow of the late Solomon Williams. She was a daughter of Deacon Jonathan Arms of this town, and was 92 years of age,—has left six sons, all of respectable standing in society,—two residing in Boston, the others in this town—

The Exploring Expedition—

Exploring voyage

What man of a philosophical taste can peruse these Volumes without the highest interest? They display to our view almost the whole of terrestrial phenomena, as well as the extraordinary progress of arts & science, as they are developed by civilized nations, and especi-
-lly to our [illegible] We

Dict. We now sit by our fire side, 4987
28 with the surface of the globe
Buffon spread out before us, and
turn trace the adventurous navigator
through [illegible] and
traverse, through straits, islands
& icebergs to the utmost bounds
of earth; and wherever land
is found of any extent, we find
it the abode of man, or the rest
of other animals adapted to
their conditions by a myster-
ious Providence, of whom
we can form no adequate con-
ception; but all demonstrating
his benevolence and care.
In the Pacific ocean we discover
innumerable insulated tracts of land,
generally the abode of human be-
ings, and more destitute of quadru-
pedal animals; and even in
the open seas, the mighty whale
and other monsters that at large.
without the arts of ship-building
navigation, have little conception
how far this [illegible] of the
works of Providence.
the animals either created where th

488
Dec
28

~~on~~ coasts of the Eastern Continent with no other guide than the heavenly bodies, never ventured into the ~~open~~ ocean beyond the sight of land. Commerce of course saw nothing of the wonders of the great deep. Since the discovery of the directive power of the magnet, this cautious navigation is abandoned, and Ships now stretch boldly into the trackless ocean and shape their course ~~with the certainty~~ in the darkest night, or most thickly clouded sky, with a certainty of ~~their~~ position truly wonderful; and but a small part of the globe now remains unexplored. To what perfection may not the facilities of ~~the~~ peaceful arts seem to carry man! Still navigation is attended with danger, and whether we shall ever be able to construct ships to defy the storms of the ocean is yet to be seen. It now remains a duty of the civilized nations to extend their arts & science to man in all parts of the habitable world, and teach him the dignity to which he may arrive in the application of the laws of nature to his purposes.

Improv
ency of
th. ma
riter
guide.

Decr 29 Tuesday Morn fair and N. & soon veered to SW. the day continued fair & the air not severely cold. In the evening cloudy.—

Still perusing the Exploring Voyage which I find very interesting and instructive. In the 2d Vol we find a pretty full account of the British settlement at New South Wales and the recent settlement of New Zealand, both of which were in a savage state in the time of Cooke &c as late as 1788, when the first convicts were landed at Botany Bay in the former, under Governor Philips who soon after removed to Port Jackson and commenced the settlement at Sydney which is said now to contain 24,000 inhabitants, & the country many other towns & villages, all under a Government who has a body of regular troops. As the Exploring Squadron did not touch at Van Dieman's Land no description of it is given.

490 The whole population of
Dec 29 ~~[illegible]~~) South Wales in 1841 is said to be ~~one~~
120.856, and about one fourth
of the number convicts; the extent
from Lat. ~~——~~ 10.37 to 39.02
South, on the eastern coast of
New Holland.

Great Britain has three other
colonies in Australia, at Swan
river on the west coast, South
Australia on the south. and North
Australia on the north coast, the
population about 15.000;
Notwithstanding, says Commodore
Wilkes, I have mentioned many things
that have struck us as requiring
great reform, yet the whole impression left on my mind is, that
it is a glorious colony, which
the mother country, and the whole
Anglo Saxon race, may well be
be proud of, and that it ought to
claim much more attention
than it apparently does from
the home government.

New Zealand is coming

Decr nature, and is a chronicle of similar
29 voyages from whalers; and the
whaling fleet, actively employed
on this coast in the spring of 1840,
amounted to 100 sail

30 Wednesday. Morn cloudy and
warm. N. with snow; day cloudy &

David S. Hoyt, son of Horatio
David Hoyt, informs his father by let-
S. ter from Newtown, that he has
Hoyt enlisted into the ordnance corps
and is ordered to Point-Comfort in
En- Virginia. Whether this corps is
list to do duty with the army in Mexi-
ment co, I am not certain. Our young friend
. may regret his position, or he may
become attached to it, and continue
in the service after peace takes place.
For some time past he has been
perusing my military Library, and
his zeal in the cause of democracy
is unbounded; but he has been cau-
tioned of the dangers of the climate
of Mexico and the hardships of a
military life; but experience will
be his best school. But with

492 his notions of liberty & radicalism

Decr. 30

Re-marks on

I cannot conceive that he can sub-
mit to that rigid discipline ne-
cessary in the military professions
whether as an officer or a soldier;
every principle of which, is op-
posite to the democratic course,
I feel disappointed at the course
the young man has taken since
from that he will ^smart^ misplacement
under the iron hand of discipline.
The business of the corps however
may not be called for in the field
but performed .. at the military
stations within the United States
in preparing artillery & munitions
for the army & navy. like that of
the Laboratory at Woolwich in Eng-
glande. near London.

31. Thursday. Morn cloudy wind
SW.; mid day continued cloudy.

My birth day. Born in the
antiquated house contiguous to the
new brick church, on the 31st day

Birth day

of December 1765, I now enter my
82 years, my health much as

Dec 31. my last birth day; but in the course of last year I find my eye-sight more impaired, and with difficulty I read ordinary letter printing which deprives me of the pleasure of Book reading, especially in a room not well lighted: and of course, read but little in the evening. Books however are my great resort and associates. Since my infancy great events have occurred in the world, more probably than within my recollection; arts & sciences have made wonderful progress, and man seems capable of a higher degree of knowledge by the study of the laws of nature as they are daily presented to our view. Wars however continue to disgrace the world, but it is hoped further improvements will banish them forever. The system of Government adopted by the United States would insure peace & prosperity, were we as good as the system. Alas! here is the great error.

my [illegible] 1844